

Cross Gender Supervision

1720.1 PROCEDURES

Sheriff's Department personnel shall acknowledge inmates' bodily privacy rights they retain while in the care and custody of the Sheriff's Department. Staff will remain professional at all times and respect the dignity of each inmate. As a general rule, each shift will be sufficiently staffed to provide staff of the same gender as the inmates in a specific housing/work location. This policy shall not be applied to prohibit any work assignment on the basis of an employee's gender.(Penal Code Section 4021).

- (a) Staff may be assigned to positions that require safety checks or observation at a distance of unclothed inmates of the opposite gender. Cross gender safety checks are permitted by the courts. For more information refer to [OCSD Policy Manual \(Lexipol\) Section 902 – Inmate Safety Checks](#).
- (b) Per California Penal Code 4021 It shall be unlawful for any officer, station officer, jailer, or custodial personnel to search the person of any prisoner of the opposite sex, or to enter into the room or cell occupied by any prisoner of the opposite sex, except in the company of an employee of the same sex as the prisoner.
 - 1. As defined in this section "station officer" means an unarmed civilian employee such as a Correctional Services Assistant (CSA). Additionally, "employee" means a Deputy Sheriff, correctional officer, custodial officer, medical staff person or designated civilian employee.
- (c) Staff of the opposite gender of inmates will be required to announce their presence when entering an area where inmates are likely to be showering, performing bodily functions, or changing clothing. Inmates shall be able to shower, perform bodily functions, and change clothing without nonmedical staff of the opposite gender viewing their breasts, buttocks or genitalia, except in exigent circumstances or when such viewing is incidental to routine safety checks.
- (d) In exigent circumstances (e.g., disturbances, medical aids, etc.), any available Deputy may respond immediately regardless of the gender of the inmate(s) involved, or the location of the emergency.
- (e) Cross gender restrictions on searches are covered in [CCOM Section 1710.4\(b\) - Gender Restrictions](#).