



St. Thomas Police Service

BOARD POLICY

Subject:	Search of Persons
Policy Number:	LE – 012
Effective Date:	April 1, 2024
Reviewed:	April 22, 2026
Authorized:	Police Services Board

AUTHORITY/LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

- *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1*
- *Ontario Regulation 392/23 – Adequate and Effective Policing (General)*

POLICY STATEMENT

The St. Thomas Police Services Board is committed to ensuring that searches of persons conducted by members of the St. Thomas Police Service are carried out in strict accordance with applicable legislation, constitutional protections, and judicially established legal principles.

Searches of persons represent a significant intrusion upon an individual's privacy and dignity and must therefore be conducted lawfully, respectfully, and in a manner that upholds the rights guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

POLICY APPLICATION

It is the policy of the Board with respect to searches of persons that the Chief of Police shall:

- a. establish procedures governing the circumstances in which members may conduct searches of persons;
- b. ensure procedures address:
 - frisk or field searches
 - thorough searches
 - strip searches
 - body cavity searches
 - consent searches
 - supervision and documentation of searches;
- c. ensure members comply with legal, constitutional, and case law requirements relating to searches of persons; and
- d. ensure members receive training and updates respecting legal authorities governing searches.