



# Street Checks and Street Check Reporting Procedure

Search Policy Manual

## Procedure Number:

OP10-9PR

## Procedure Purpose:

To ensure the appropriate legal authorities are present when members conduct street checks, and to describe the appropriate reporting requirements.

### Definitions:

*Definitions listed in this section apply to this document only with no implied or intended organization-wide or EPS Policy and Procedure Manual wide use.*

**Investigative Detention** – Investigative detention is a temporary holding power that allows officers to continue an investigation for a reasonable amount of time to determine whether the person is criminally involved in the matter for which they were detained.

**Psychological Detention** – Occurs when a reasonable person would conclude by reason of the police officer's actions that they have no choice but to comply with a demand or direction, even though the police may lack any legal authority for that demand or direction.

**Reasonable Grounds to Believe** – A set of circumstances that would satisfy an ordinary, cautious, and prudent person to believe beyond a mere suspicion. It is the point when credibly based probability replaces suspicion.

**Reasonable Suspicion** – Something more than mere suspicion and something less than a belief based on reasonable grounds. Reasonable suspicion may also be referred to as articulable cause, reasonable grounds to suspect, or suspects on reasonable grounds.

**Street Check** – A subject stop when there is no grounds for arrest, but rather the result of proactive policing and/or contact and engagement with a person or group of people. The purpose of a Street Check is to gather street level intelligence that may assist members in increasing public safety through preventing, intervening and suppressing crime, and to further investigations.

**Street Check Report (SCR)** – The Street Check Report is the document that includes the information a member obtains when conducting a Street Check, and/or information the member has personally observed for the purposes as outlined. This report aims to obtain the “who, what, where, when, and why” of an interaction or observation.

## Procedures:

### A. Conducting a Street Check:

1. If the grounds to arrest or detain exist, members should utilize those holding powers. However, if the grounds to arrest or detain do not exist, members must be aware that although they may engage the public, they do not have any holding power.
2. Initiating a Street Check may be considered if:
  - a. A member makes an observation which may provide intelligence related to a legitimate police investigation and/or the prevention of crime and disorder.
  - b. A member approaches and engages a subject(s) in an attempt to gather intelligence on the subject(s) or the area for the purpose of:
    - i. Furthering a legitimate police investigation.
    - ii. The prevention of crime and disorder, and/or
    - iii. The prevention of further victimization.
3. To ensure that street level intelligence gathering is aligned with the principles of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, when conducting a Street Check, members must:
  - a. Be able to recognize, differentiate and articulate the difference between public engagement, detention powers, and arrest powers.
  - b. Understand investigative detention, which includes physical and/or psychological detention.
  - c. Properly document street level intelligence.
4. Members must always articulate the reason(s) they conducted a Street Check in their report of the event.
5. Unless there is a legal requirement for the subject(s) to provide information, members must be aware that the subject(s) is not obligated to provide any information during a Street Check, and may disengage with members at any time. Members must be able to articulate this to the subject(s), and should be able to reinforce that the subject(s) is not under detention if questioned. Members may refer to **OP4-3PR Investigative and Psychological Detention Procedure** for further information on psychological detention.

6. Members must exercise bias awareness to ensure their actions are not motivated by personal bias, stereotyping or prejudice, and must be aware of the perception of bias that their actions may create. Street Checks must not be instigated on the basis of a member's personal bias. Members may refer to **OP2-1PR Bias Awareness Procedure** for further information.

#### **B. Street Check Report (SCR):**

1. Members must adhere to the following principles of information collection for SCR's:
  - a. Include the background or reason for conducting the Street Check or submission of the SCR.
  - b. The SCR must contain factual information and must not include assumptions.
  - c. Only relevant personal information about a subject(s) should be included within an SCR.
  - d. The SCR does not document an investigation that must be recorded in an Occurrence Report or other report forms such as Intelligence or Source Debriefing Reports (SDR).
  - e. SCR's must not identify confidential human sources or contain confidential source information.
2. SCR's must be submitted in EPROS, and reviewed and approved by a supervisor to ensure adherence to the principles of Street Checks and information collection.
3. SCR's must not be used as a productivity performance measure.

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#### **Related Information:**

**Associated Procedures** [IN3-1PR - Investigative Aids and Resources Procedure](#)  
[OP2-1PR - Bias Awareness and Management Procedure](#)  
[OP4-3PR - Investigative and Psychological Detention Procedure](#)  
[OP10-6PR - Reports and Court Processes Procedure](#)  
[OP14-1PR - Jurisdiction Procedure](#)

**Policy** [OP10PO - Reports and Reporting Processes Policy](#)

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