

12.2 Search of a Suspect

The search of a person who is not a prisoner or arrestee is generally prohibited, but there are limited exceptions to this rule (also see Chapter 11.4, *Search of a Vehicle*, and Chapter 13.3, *Searches of an Arrestee or Prisoner*, in this General Orders Manual).

12.2.1 Exigent Circumstances and Emergencies

Deputies may make a warrantless search of anything or anyone when they have good reason to believe it is necessary to protect life or prevent injury. This includes the limited authority granted under *CR, § 4-206, of the Annotated Code of Maryland*, to determine if a person is illegally carrying, wearing, or transporting a handgun.

12.2.2 Consent Search

A deputy may conduct a search of a person if the deputy has obtained the consent of the person who will be affected by the search, or of someone who has the right and the authority to act for the person who will be affected. Prior to searching, the deputy must ask the person for consent and must reasonably believe that the person has consented clearly, voluntarily, and of his/her own free will.