

# OM - ch. 1.4. Street Checks

**Directive Amended: 2017-02-13**

For information regarding this policy, contact National Criminal Operations, Contract and Aboriginal Policing.

- 1. [Definitions](#)
  - 2. [General](#)
  - 3. [Roles and Responsibilities](#)
  - 4. [Records Management](#)
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## 1. Definitions

1. 1. **Bias-Free Policing** means equitable treatment of all persons by all RCMP employees in the performance of their duties, and in accordance with the law, and without abusing their authority regardless of an individual's race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, citizenship, family status, socio-economic status, or a conviction for which a pardon has been granted. See [ch. 38.2](#).

1. 2. **Street check** means an electronic record of information obtained through a contact with a person who was not detained or arrested during his/her interaction with the police.

NOTE: Not all face to face contacts with the public in which identifying information is requested will require an electronic record.

## 2. General

2. 1. Street checks should meet the following basic criteria:

2. 1. 1. the member has had face-to-face contact with a person;

2. 1. 2. the member has obtained identifying information from that person;

2. 1. 3. the contact was not the result of an active investigation or call for service; and

2. 1. 4. the recording of the information obtained during the contact serves a policing purpose.

2. 2. A street check is a valuable investigative tool that allows the storing and sharing of information related to crime and public safety issues.

2. 2. 1. Street checks can be used to initiate and support investigations, and identify crime trends.

2. 3. Policing must be professional, open, ethical, respectful, unbiased, and reflect the principles of the [\*Charter of Rights and Freedoms\*](#) and the [\*Canadian Human Rights Act\*](#).

2. 4. Street checks must comply with bias-free policing directives.

2. 5. The police will regularly engage the public as part of routine police practices.

2. 5. 1. The common law provides the authority to police to speak with members of the public during the commission of their duties.

2. 6. The subject of a street check is not obligated to provide information to police. Providing personal identifying information must be voluntary.

NOTE: If the interaction is not voluntary, or the willingness of the person providing the identifying information is in question, the member should remind the person that they are free to go and are under no obligation to provide this information.

2. 7. Street check stops must not be random or arbitrary but may be completed for incidents that relate to police and public safety. Members must have an articulable cause for conducting a street check including but not limited to:

2. 7. 1. non-detention or non-arrest interactions;

2. 7. 2. suspicious circumstances or behaviour observed by police;

2. 7. 3. contact with persons of interest at locations where criminal activity occurs, time of day, or at high crime areas identified by officers, crime analysts, or community stakeholders;

2. 7. 4. interactions with persons known to be, or reasonably believed to be, involved in criminal activity;

2. 7. 5. gathering information on drug, gang, or organized crime suspects; and

2. 7. 6. officer safety interactions with persons or groups who may be deemed a risk to the public or police.

2. 8. The following will not be electronically recorded through a street check:

2. 8. 1. offence-related occurrences, investigations, or calls for service;

2. 8. 2. confidential human source information;

2. 8. 3. a seizure of property;

2. 8. 4. weapons offences, violence, or threats of violence; or

2. 8. 5. observations of policing value made by an officer without interaction with the public.

NOTE: Observations of policing value made without a public/police interaction (where the identity of the individual is known) must be recorded through, either an information or an intelligence file.

2. 9. If a subject is detained or arrested, a substantive file must be created to articulate the circumstances and grounds of that detention/arrest.

2. 10. In provinces where the RCMP are designated as police officers, members must comply with provincial legislation relating to the collection of identifying information or street checks.

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **3. Member**

3. 1. 1. You must be aware that the subject of a street check is not obligated to provide information to police.

3. 1. 1. 1. Providing personal identifying information must be voluntary. See [sec. 2.6.](#)

3. 1. 2. Street checks are to be documented in your notebook, in accordance with [ch. 25.2.](#)

3. 1. 3. Document street checks on the Records Management System (RMS) as soon as possible after the contact, to ensure that the information is readily available to other members.

3. 1. 4. Ensure all street checks are complete and accurate.

3. 1. 4. 1. Pay close attention to physical characteristics of the subject, or other identifying characteristics, including clothing, behaviours, habits, and mannerisms, that would uniquely identify the subject.

3. 1. 5. Document date, time, associated vehicles, and locations.

3. 1. 6. Document the investigative and public safety reasons for initiating contact within the text portion of the street check.

3. 1. 7. To ensure the proper retention of street check electronic files, link street checks to all associated/related substantive files in the RMS.

NOTE: For PROS users, see [ch. 47.3., sec. 15.](#)

3. 1. 8. Support and enhance information-sharing and intelligence-led policing by informing other investigators or crime analysts of information obtained.

3. 1. 9. Ensure you check all applicable indices, including CPIC.

3. 1. 10. When information obtained is time sensitive, notify the appropriate section, investigator, or other interested party/parties.

3. 1. 11. If information obtained through a contact with a member of the public results in the person becoming a confidential informant, document this in accordance with [ch. 31.1.](#)

3. 1. 12. If you are uncertain whether a contact should be classified as a street check, consult a supervisor.

### **3. 2. Supervisor**

3. 2. 1. Monitor and review all street checks to ensure compliance with this, and any other, applicable policy.

3. 2. 2. Provide guidance to members on the appropriate use of street checks, as required.

3. 2. 3. If a street check does not comply with this policy, request that the record be modified for compliance within the RMS.

3. 2. 4. Verify that members have ensured the proper retention of street check files by linking them to a substantive file, as appropriate.

NOTE: For PROS, see [ch. 47.3., sec. 15.](#)

3. 2. 5. Supervisors must put in place a workflow process to ensure supervisor-review of all street checks.

3. 2. 6. Take appropriate action if information entered on a street check may compromise an investigation, or the safety of the public or police.

3. 2. 7. Take action if information received is information that, if divulged, could endanger a member of the public, or if information received, infers a threat to a specific member. See [ch. 2.7.](#)

### **4. Records Management**

4. 1. Street checks are kept for two years after being concluded in PRIME/PROS/VERSADEX HALIFAX.

EXCEPTION: A street check that is linked to a secondary operational file must have the same retention period as the linked operational file.

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### **References**

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[Top of Page](#)

[Important Notices](#)