

Statements from the San Francisco Sheriff's Department shared with Mission Local on Sept. 11, 2025:

1. Could you please tell me what the sheriff's policy for conducting strip searches in the county jails is, or direct me to where I might find the most up-to-date policies online?

Please see [attachment](#).

2. Has this policy been altered recently? If so, why?

No this policy has not been altered recently. But we are enforcing our longstanding policy on a more regular, frequent basis for any incarcerated person who has a contact visit. This enforcement is being done in an effort to stem the flow of contraband into our jails.

3. Is it a common practice for inmates to be strip-searched after having an in-person meeting with their attorney?

Currently it is common practice for incarcerated persons to be strip-searched after having contact visits, not just visits with an attorney.

What is the process like?

During the process of a strip search, there is no physical contact between the deputy and incarcerated person. Individuals are required to remove clothing so deputies can visually inspect for any potential hidden contraband.

4. I've heard that such searches have been happening more frequently in the last couple weeks. If this is accurate, is there a reason for the shift?

The reason for the shift is detailed in the response to Question #2. Our top priority is the safety of those who live and work in the jails.

When did it start to happen?

Again this policy is not new, this is just a more intense focus on keeping inmates, deputies, and visitors safe, and preventing the influx of drugs and other contraband that are introduced into the jail.

Who was notified?

Sworn staff

Have inmates been declining visits with their attorneys as a result?

We do not track that information.

Statement from the San Francisco Sheriff's Department shared with Mission Local on Sept. 15, 2025:

Do strip searches following contact visits, including legal visits, require reasonable suspicion?

No they do not.