



Sheridan Police Department
Policies and Procedures
20.4 Replaces 411.1
Chapter 20 – Investigations
Section 4 – Disrobing for Photographic Evidence

Date: January 1, 2013
Revised: 03/11/2022

Signature:

In the course of police investigations, it is sometimes necessary to ask victims and/or suspects to disrobe for photographic purposes, to view injuries and gather evidence. In all such instances, officers of this department will take every avenue available to avoid unnecessary embarrassment or humiliation for the person who must disrobe for the officer while still accomplishing the task at hand.

20.4.1 Disrobing for Photographic Evidence

- A. Injuries located in intimate areas should be taken by an officer of the same sex as the victim or a medical professional, in an area allowing privacy.
- B. Unless it will result in evidence being lost or a case being placed in jeopardy, no member of this department will ask another person to disrobe unless a member of that person's same sex is present in the room as a witness. If a witness of the same sex cannot be located, another officer shall be present.
- C. The reason for having the person disrobe should be explained to the person who is being asked to disrobe in front of the witness. The witness's name should be included in the report.
- D. In the rare event that no person can be located to witness the event, the officer may proceed only if not doing so is likely to cause serious damage to the case. If practical, a supervisor shall be contacted prior to continuing. In this case, the officer shall make notes in the report of the facts and circumstances surrounding the event.
- E. Officers should be diligent in using all available resources, including outside agencies, such as: Sheridan County Sheriff's Office, ambulance personnel, Advocacy and Resource Center and Sheridan Memorial Hospital.

20.4.2 Taking Photographs

- A. When taking photographs of a victim's injury, the photographs should contain full body length and intermediate distance images of the victim. Close-up photographs should be taken both with and without the use of a suitable ruler to indicate size/scale of the injury.
- B. When taking photographs of an injury, the photographer should position the camera at a ninety (90) degree angle to the injury.
- C. Several close-up photographs should be taken of the injury with and without the evidence ruler present in the photograph. A person not involved in the investigation should be able to identify where on a person's body a documented image is.