



*Maryland-National Capital Park Police  
Prince George's County Division*



**DIVISION DIRECTIVE**

TITLE			PROCEDURE NUMBER
USE OF PORTABLE HAND HELD FINGERPRINT SCANNERS			PG443.0
SECTION	DISTRIBUTION	ISSUE DATE	REVIEW DATE
	A	05/01/12	06/01/14
REPLACES			
N/A			
RELATED DIRECTIVES	REFERENCES	AUTHORITY	
N/A	N/A	Larry M. Brownlee, Sr., Division Chief	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish a procedure regarding the use of portable hand held fingerprint scanners to identify individuals and apprehend criminals.

II. POLICY

A. It is the policy of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division to utilize the best available policies, procedures and equipment to identify and apprehend criminals. A portable handheld fingerprint scanner is a tool to assist officers/staff in the positive identification of individuals and apprehend criminals.

III. DEFINITION

BlueCheck is a portable Bluetooth enabled fingerprint scanner for use by law enforcement. The device enables users to perform on-the-spot fingerprint acquisition from individuals that are then matched against fingerprints stored on State and Federal databases.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. BlueCheck™ will only be issued to members who have completed an approved training course. Training shall include:

1. Setup and maintenance of the device;
2. Proper use guidelines;
3. Legal issues involved in using the device; and
4. Reporting requirements.

B. Use of the BlueCheck™ fingerprint scanner:

1. The fingerprint scanner may be used during the investigation of any incident where the officer can articulate a concern regarding the true identity of the subject and needs to use the system as a further means to confirm the subject's identity.
  - a. The BlueCheck™ operator will direct the subject to submit to the scan and provide direction consistent with training. Pre-arrest, physical force will NOT be used to gain compliance to the operator's direction to submit to the scan.
  - b. An individual will not be charged criminally for the refusal to submit to the fingerprint scan.
2. Examples of incidents during which use of the BlueCheck™ device may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Suspicion that the subject is not being truthful as to their identity.
  - b. Suspicion that the subject has committed or is about to commit a criminal act. Belief that scanning the subject's fingerprints will either establish or nullify the subject's connection to a crime that just occurred.
  - d. When a subject is under arrest and is refusing to provide information or there is suspicion the suspect is providing false or inaccurate information regarding their identity prior to transport to Central Processing CPU).
  - e. During traffic stops when the driver's identity for a minor offense is in question.
  - f. When a subject's physical descriptors match a wanted suspect.
3. Other possible uses of the fingerprint scanner include the following, with supervisory approval:
  - a. Unattended deaths to identify the subject/victim.
  - b. Traffic homicide if no other identification is available.
  - c. Assisting other agencies
4. **The use of BlueCheck™ is prohibited on persons an officer believes or suspects to be under the age of 18 (juvenile).**
5. Use of the fingerprint scanner for random or general investigative or intelligence gathering, with no specific case or reason is **prohibited**.

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Members are expected to be able to justify each incident in which a fingerprint scanner is used in a police report.

B. Members shall document the circumstances surrounding each use of the fingerprint scanner in any related report. A report is required if the device is utilized, documenting the circumstances of its use.

C. The approving supervisor shall ensure:

1. Members follow established guidelines and procedures.
2. Any statistical reporting requirements outlined in training are being met.
3. Any lost, stolen or damaged scanner units shall be reported in accordance with existing stolen/lost/damaged equipment procedures outlined in DD PG1700.0, Uniforms and Equipment, Section VII.G.2.

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