

Body-Worn Camera (BWC) for Custody Operations

1707.1 PURPOSE AND REQUIRED ACTIVATION FOR BWC

1707.1.1 - Purpose

This section will be effective on July 18, 2025, at the Intake and Release Center. In an effort to develop effective procedures for Body Worn Camera (BWC) use within custody operations, an IRC BWC Pilot Program will be implemented. These guidelines serve as a reference and provide "how-to" instructions for staff participating in the pilot. Participation in the pilot program is mandatory for assigned staff and compliance with these guidelines is essential to meet program requirements. The purpose of the pilot is to allow staff to gain familiarity with the BWC system, ask questions, identify potential issues, and propose solutions, including recommendations for changes to this section. The program is designed to support the development of procedures that may eventually be implemented custody wide. This section may be updated as the pilot program evolves.

1707.1.2 - Required Activation for BWC

This section is not intended to include every possible situation where the BWC may be used, as there are many situations where its use is appropriate. A Department Member may activate the system any time it would be appropriate and valuable to document an investigation, incident or contact.

- (a) A Sergeant/Deputy/SSO/CSA shall activate their BWCs while in the performance of the following duties:
 - 1. Any incident requiring a Sergeant response
 - 2. Any use of force interview or investigation
 - 3. Interviews with inmates (ADA, PREA, Criminal Investigation, Administrative Hearings, etc.)
 - 4. Processing new arrestees. This includes all steps of the booking process.
 - 5. Restraint chair use.
 - 6. Escorts
 - 7. Searching of inmates, excluding strip searches. For procedures on strip searches, refer to [CCOM Section 1710.4.3 – Strip and Visual Body Cavity Search](#).
 - 8. Entering a cell, dormitory housing or holding cell occupied by an inmate. This does not include direct supervision Deputies that are observing inmates from their post in the dayroom.
 - 9. Search of a cell, dormitory housing, or holding area.
 - 10. Activities involving inmate contact such as count, clothing exchange, tablet distribution etc.

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11. Daily activities:
 - i. Count
 - ii. Chow
 - iii. Effective ONLY between September 19, 2025, to September 25, 2025: Safety Checks in housing locations.
 - iv. Escort of staff during medication disbursement
 - v. Clothing exchange
 - vi. Commissary
 - vii. Inmate Release Process (Completion of inmate paperwork, return of property, fingerprints etc.)
 12. Court and medical refusals as required in [CCOM Section 2106.6 – Inmates Refusing Off Compound Medical Appointments](#) and [CCOM Section 1300.5 – Inmates Refusing to go to Court](#).
 13. Emergency Response Team (ERT) activations.
 14. Responding to inmate fights or disturbances, emergency situations, uncooperative inmate(s), use of force situations, unusual or suspicious circumstances, and interactions with inmates with a history or uncooperative or unpredictable behavior.
 15. At no time is a Department Member expected to jeopardize their safety in order to activate their BWC. However, the BWC should be activated as soon as practical.
 16. For Department Members assigned to locations outside of the secure area of the jail facility (i.e., Lobby, perimeter locations, or dock/intake), follow BWC activation requirements listed in [OCSD Policy Manual \(Lexipol\) Section 447.4.2 – Required Activation of the BWC/ICV](#).
- (b) Authorized Equipment and BWC Placement
1. For BWC placement, refer to [OCSD Policy Manual \(Lexipol\) Section 447.3.2 - BWC Placement](#).
 2. Nothing in this section will limit management's ability to authorize different equipment and BWC placement during the IRC BWC Pilot Program.

1707.2 EXCEPTIONS TO REQUIRED ACTIVATION OF THE BWC

- (a) Deputies shall not use the BWC to record inmates during the following conditions, except when circumstances dictate the need for BWC activation, such as the inmate becoming uncooperative or resistive, or the possibility of an allegation of misconduct arises from the contact:
1. Strip search
 2. Classification Interview
 3. Inmate Releases - while inmate is in changing area of release tank.

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- (b) The Facility Watch Commander or higher authority may authorize the termination of BWC recording and require the use of a handheld camera in lieu of BWC under the following circumstances:
 - 1. Likely damage to equipment
 - 2. Strip search
- (c) Department Members shall cease recording where inmate privacy supersedes the need for recording such as, conversations with their attorney, physician, mental health practitioner, or religious advisor. This does not prohibit the recording of inmate movement to and from their official visit, medical appointment, or religious programming, or in situations where the interactions with the inmate and attorney/medical staff reasonably appear to be escalating to the point where intervention by a Department Member would be necessary. If such incidents are accidentally recorded, the process in [OCSD Policy Manual \(Lexipol\) Section 447.4.10 – Accidental Activation of the BWC/ICV](#) will be followed.
- (d) Department members may cease recording during tactical planning, including but not limited to ERT planning. Refer to OCSD Policy Manual (Lexipol) Section 446 - Body Worn Camera & In-Car Video Systems.

1707.3 BWC ACTIVATION BY NON-CUSTODIAL STAFF INSIDE OC JAIL

- (a) Sworn peace officers, probation officers, parole officers, or federal agents acting in an investigative capacity are authorized to bring BWCs inside custody and utilize them for recording interviews, but only in designated areas, such as visitation, interview rooms, or any other place authorized by the Division Commander or their designee. All uses of BWCs must comply with security protocols and ensure the privacy and safety of both staff and inmates during the visit. Deputies/Officers utilizing body worn cameras shall turn off the recording device prior to entering a secure area of any jail facility, unless the device is utilized to record an interview in accordance with this section.

1707.4 BODY WORN CAMERA (BWC) FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION BUREAU (OCTB)

- (a) A Sergeant/Deputy/CSA Member of OCTB shall activate their BWC while in the performance of the following duties:
 - 1. Any circumstance listed in [CCOM Section 1707.1 - Required Activation of BWC](#).
 - 2. OCTB personnel shall activate their BWCs during the loading and unloading of inmates until all inmates are secure.
 - 3. Inmates transported within Orange County
 - i. If no Deputy of the same sex as the inmates being transported is present, OCTB personnel shall activate their BWC/ICV for the entire duration of the trip. For information on required notifications to OCTB Dispatch, refer to [CCOM Section 9000.2 - Transportation of Inmates](#) .
 - 4. When an inmate is transported as the result of an Emergency Response Team (ERT) activation or extraction, OCTB personnel shall activate their BWC/ICV for

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the duration of the transportation from one facility to another facility. For further information, refer to [CCOM Section 9000.2\(e\)\(11\) - Transportation of Inmates In County](#).

5. Upon arrival to a state prison or another county jail, OCTB personnel shall adhere to the restrictions of use of BWCs of that respective agency. If the agency does not have BWC usage policies or procedures, OCTB personnel shall adhere to [CCOM Section 1707.4 - Body Worn Camera \(BWC\) for the Orange County Transportation Bureau \(OCTB\)](#) . The OCTB Division Commander will ensure that the current version of any outside agency policies and procedures related to BWCs will be made available to OCTB personnel via the OCSD intranet system.
- (b) Exceptions to Required Activation of the BWC
1. Any circumstance listed in [CCOM Section 1707.2 - Exceptions to Required Activation of BWC](#).
 2. Any circumstance listed in [OCSD Policy Manual \(Lexipol\) Section 447.4.3 - Exceptions to Required Activation of the BWC/ICV](#).