



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CRAIG N. MEIDL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Closed Case Summary

Complaint Number: C17-036 OPO Number: N/A

Date of Complaint: 6/12/2017

Allegation: Unlawful/Improper Search and Seizure

Chain of Command Finding: Exonerated

Final Discipline: Not Applicable

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers arrested the complainant on a felony drug warrant and transported her to jail. At jail, corrections staff located a small baggie of heroin on the complainant. A female corrections officer performed a strip search on the complainant. When it was apparent that the complainant had a contraband item in her vagina, officers transported her to the hospital for a body cavity search. Medical personnel performed a body cavity search at the hospital, and removed a foreign body, which was turned over to police as evidence.

COMPLAINT

The complainant gave a statement to jail staff that she was digitally penetrated by a Spokane Police officer during the body cavity search at the hospital.

INVESTIGATION

Washington State Patrol conducted an independent investigation of the incident, due to the serious nature of the allegation. The WSP investigator reviewed the hospital records and spoke with the physician and one of the nurses who was present during the examination of the complainant. Independent statements and reports by hospital staff corroborated reports written by officers and did not indicate any inappropriate actions by officers.

Internal Affairs conducted an investigation as well. Investigators interviewed all of the officers involved on the call, and the physician who removed the foreign body from the complainant.

The investigation showed there was no evidence of misconduct by any officers. The WSP investigative summary and physician notes showed the complainant was given an I.V. sedative and was examined by a medical doctor with nursing staff present. No officers were present in the exam room for the medical procedure.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The chain of command review determined that officers' actions were appropriate and there were no crimes or violations of policies. The involved officer was Exonerated of the allegation.