

2021 Police Sergeant Written Work Sample Information Session

Sample Problem:

Officer Brad Fulco is a 12-year police officer under your command. All 12 of his years have been in patrol. At 10:15 a.m. while driving through his patrol area within Franklin County, Officer Fulco sees a person leaving a house commonly known for drug activity. The person gets into a late model Honda Accord, Ohio license plate #LMN-5695, and drives away.

Officer Fulco runs the license plate and it is determined that the car is registered to a Michael Evans. Evans has an outstanding arrest warrant stemming from domestic violence incident. The person driving the car fit the description of Michael Evans. Therefore, Officer Fulco decides to pull the car over. He asks to see Evans's driver's license and registration. Officer Fulco asks Evans to get out of the car, places Evans under arrest and performs a search incident to the arrest. While Officer Fulco begins to conduct a pat-down of Evans, Evans says, "Why are you sweatin' me? I didn't do nothing wrong."

While searching Evans, Officer Fulco feels what may be a knife in the crotch of Evan's pants. Officer Fulco asks Evan to remove the object, but Evans states that it is nothing and refuses. Since Evan's is wearing tight jeans, Officer Fulco cannot remove the item without Evan removing his jeans.

Officer Fulco immediately calls you, his patrol sergeant, in order for you to authorize a strip search of the suspect.

Question:

What immediate actions will you take, and/or ensure are taken regarding the authorization of the strip search?

Reference:

DIR 3.11 Body Cavity and Strip Searches

IV. B. Authorizing Supervisor

1. Respond to the scene.
2. Review the probable cause.
3. Approve or disapprove the request for the search. Absent exigent circumstances, complete and sign the "Written Authorization" section of the Strip/Cavity Search Authorization form before a search is conducted for an arrest stemming from a misdemeanor crime or traffic offense.
4. Ensure the search is conducted within Division policy.
5. When the search is for an arrest stemming from a misdemeanor crime or traffic offense:
 - a. Review the completed forms to ensure all required information is documented,
 - b. Complete the Supervisor's Review section of the Strip/Cavity Search Results form, and
 - c. Ensure copies of the forms are provided to persons searched.
6. When the search is for an arrest stemming from a felony arrest:
 - a. Complete the Strip/Cavity Search Authorization and Strip/Cavity Search Results forms, or

- b. Complete an investigative letter and ensure all information requested on the Strip/Cavity Search Authorization and Strip/Cavity Search Results forms is included in the letter.
 - c. Forward copies of the forms or investigative letter for inclusion with the arrest and/or investigative packet.
7. Complete a Data Processing Worksheet, form U-10.164, and forward it with the Strip/Cavity Search Authorization and Strip/Cavity Search Results forms or investigative letter to the Internal Affairs Bureau.

Sample Response:

- Respond to scene
- Review probable cause
- Complete the Strip/Cavity Search Authorization form prior to search
- Ensure the search is conducted within Division policy
- Review the completed forms to ensure all required info is documented
- Complete Supervisor's Review section of the Strip/Cavity Search Results Form
- Ensure the suspect is provided with copies of the Strip/Cavity Search Results and Strip/Cavity Search Authorization forms
- Complete Data Processing Worksheet
- Forward strip search packet to IAB (Data Processing Worksheet, Strip/Cavity Search Results Form, and Strip/Cavity Search Authorization Form)

Note: This example is to show you the level of detail that is expected for the 2021 Written Work Sample exam and to show how the sample response was derived from the referenced citation. The sample response is **not** complete, and could have included references to additional sources and/or additional details. This example is not intended to represent a complete answer.