



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: VEHICLE INVENTORY SEARCHES		NO: J-3400	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: May 26, 2011	REVIEWED: 06/22/2018	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

The Kern County Sheriff's Office recognizes its responsibility to those persons whose vehicle has been stored or impounded by a member of this office. As such, it is the policy of the Kern County Sheriff's Office to conduct vehicle inventory searches pursuant to current law and the provisions in this policy. A vehicle inventory is intended to protect an owner's property and protect the Kern County Sheriff's Office against claims of lost, stolen, or vandalized property.

DIRECTIVE

An inventory should be conducted only after the vehicle has come into lawful police custody. Typically, this occurs after the driver has been cited, arrested, or the vehicle has been in a traffic accident.

PROCEDURE A

- Employees of the Kern County Sheriff's Office shall inventory the contents of all vehicles stored or impounded even if nothing of value is found. Additionally, any member of the Sheriff's Office who actively participates in the inventory of the vehicle shall be noted, by name and ID number, in the "Involved Officer" section of the related report.
- If the driver, or any occupant in the vehicle, requests to take possession of an object from inside the vehicle, i.e. a purse, clothing, backpack, etc., the deputy conducting the inventory may pat the item down, or if necessary look inside the object, for weapons for officer safety purposes, before relinquishing the item.
- The inventory shall list all property contained in legally accessible areas of the vehicle's passenger compartment, glove compartment, console, trunk, and any other compartment or box which may contain property, such as a utility compartment, tool compartment, or under the seat of a motorcycle. All property located should be opened, and inventoried in the "Inventory" section of the related report.

PROCEDURE B

Contraband or evidence which is discovered during the inventory of the vehicle shall be seized and placed in Kern County Sheriff's Office Property Room in accordance with Kern County Sheriff's Office policy and procedure.

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