

Search Guidelines

The Delta Gamma Room Agreements address the Fraternity's right to search in Paragraph 8 (Paragraph 7 of the Secondary Room Agreement), which provides:

Occupant... hereby consents and agrees to a reasonable search of the Property (an "Inspection"), including without limitation, any and all quarters and areas utilized and occupied by Occupant, as well as any personal property of Occupant located in or about the Property that is in plain view, at reasonable times, to ensure compliance with this Agreement. In addition to the foregoing, Occupant specifically understands, consents and agrees that the House Corporation and Chapter reserve the right to inspect and/or search any part of the premises at any time for any reason without prior notice. Chapter in turn agrees that any Inspections will be reasonable and prudent.

The guidelines below are meant to assist chapter officers in conducting reasonable searches when/where it is deemed necessary to do so in order to maintain order, safety, and/or honor in the House. While 24-hour notice is not required, we strongly encourage that 24-hour notice is given whenever possible.

Guidelines for Conducting the Search

- Determine who will comprise the search team. A search team is comprised of 3 or more members and should include at least 1 collegiate officer (such as chapter president, vp: social standards, Honor Board members or director: house management) and 1 chapter adviser. It may include a Regional Team officer if the situation requires it. If the chapter facilities are large, more than 1 search team may be used.
- Neither House Corporation board members, nor the House Director should be involved in the search, but both may be notified that a search has taken place (or will take place, when advance notice is possible).
- House searches may be held with 24 hours' prior notice at intervals not more frequently than twice per calendar month. No prior notice is needed for a search based upon a welfare check for the health and safety of the Occupant or others with access to the Property, but searches without notice should ONLY be conducted in emergency situations. Contact Executive Offices with any inquiries regarding the applicability of this exception regarding health and safety.
- Each search team should carry with it:
 - An accurate copy of the room list or floor plan that details who occupies each room.
 - Copies of the Statement of Obligation Review form
 - The Room Agreement form
 - A camera
- Search teams should search rooms in accordance with a pre-determined plan—all rooms, a random selection of rooms, or targeted rooms (in the case of a previously reported issue or written SOR). If a search is random, a method should be chosen to determine which rooms will be searched (example: random draw).
- Search teams may look inside drawers, closets, under beds, etc. The same areas should be searched in all rooms being searched.
 - Should the search team find any items deemed illegal, unlawful, or otherwise in violation of the room agreements, they should photograph the item in

- question and write a Statement of Obligation Review.
- **Under NO circumstances are search teams authorized to remove any items from the room.**
 - If the team finds illegal or illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia (including marijuana and medical marijuana, as well as prescription drugs not prescribed to the occupant of the room), they should document their findings (through photos and SORs) and contact the local or campus police.
 - Should the search team find evidence of contraband for personal possession or use, those items should be photographed. Contraband is described as, but not limited to, alcoholic beverages or containers, illegal or illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia, items suspected to be stolen, pets, firearms, weapons, fireworks, or other harmful substances or devices.
 - Should the search team find evidence of a business or commercial enterprise, in violation of the room agreement therein, whether legal or illegal, they should document their findings (through photographs and SORs) and contact the local or campus police if there is evidence of a criminal enterprise.
 - Any members or guests in the room at the time of the search should be asked to wait in the hallway. If the search team is met with refusal to comply or the member notifies others of the search in process, an SOR should be written.
 - Members of the search team should give all documentation of the search, including SORs and photographs to the vp: social standards and the chapter Honor Board should process those as soon as possible.

After the Search

Following the search, the chapter Honor Board should process any Statement of Obligation Review forms received within 72 hours. Sanctions for violation of the Room Agreement range in severity from a warning up to and including expulsion. A member may also be placed on probation and would no longer be deemed in good standing with the Fraternity. The Regional Team and House Corporation board should be informed of any expulsion or eviction decisions made by Council that result from the search.

In the event that the Occupant is believed to be a danger to herself or others, engages in activity that is illegal, unlawful or otherwise in violation of the room agreements, or refuses to allow access for an Inspection, as described in Paragraph 8, the Occupant shall be in breach of her obligations under the room agreement and shall therefore be subject to immediate eviction and removal from the Property.

If Council expels the woman, the Regional Team and the House Corporation will be informed of the final decision of expulsion.