



# Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

## 1999 CHAPTER 33

### PART VII

#### POWER TO ARREST, SEARCH AND FINGERPRINT

##### *Power to search persons*

#### **134 Searching arrested persons.**

(1) In the 1971 Act, after section 28F, insert—

##### **“28G Searching arrested persons.**

- (1) This section applies if a person is arrested for an offence under this Part at a place other than a police station.
- (2) An immigration officer may search the arrested person if he has reasonable grounds for believing that the arrested person may present a danger to himself or others.
- (3) The officer may search the arrested person for—
  - (a) anything which he might use to assist his escape from lawful custody; or
  - (b) anything which might be evidence relating to the offence for which he has been arrested.
- (4) The power conferred by subsection (3) may be exercised—
  - (a) only if the officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the arrested person may have concealed on him anything of a kind mentioned in that subsection; and
  - (b) only to the extent that it is reasonably required for the purpose of discovering any such thing.

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*Changes to legislation: Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Section 134 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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- (5) A power conferred by this section to search a person is not to be read as authorising an officer to require a person to remove any of his clothing in public other than an outer coat, jacket or glove; but it does authorise the search of a person's mouth.
  - (6) An officer searching a person under subsection (2) may seize and retain anything he finds, if he has reasonable grounds for believing that that person might use it to cause physical injury to himself or to another person.
  - (7) An officer searching a person under subsection (3) may seize and retain anything he finds, if he has reasonable grounds for believing—
    - (a) that that person might use it to assist his escape from lawful custody; or
    - (b) that it is evidence which relates to the offence in question.
  - (8) Subsection (7)(b) does not apply to an item subject to legal privilege.”
- (2) In the 1971 Act, in Schedule 2 after paragraph 25A, insert—

**Searching persons arrested by immigration officers**

- “25B (1) This paragraph applies if a person is arrested under this Schedule.
- (2) An immigration officer may search the arrested person if he has reasonable grounds for believing that the arrested person may present a danger to himself or others.
  - (3) The officer may search the arrested person for—
    - (a) anything which he might use to assist his escape from lawful custody; or
    - (b) any document which might—
      - (i) establish his identity, nationality or citizenship; or
      - (ii) indicate the place from which he has travelled to the United Kingdom or to which he is proposing to go.
  - (4) The power conferred by sub-paragraph (3) may be exercised—
    - (a) only if the officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the arrested person may have concealed on him anything of a kind mentioned in that sub-paragraph; and
    - (b) only to the extent that it is reasonably required for the purpose of discovering any such thing.
  - (5) A power conferred by this paragraph to search a person is not to be read as authorising an officer to require a person to remove any of his clothing in public other than an outer coat, jacket or glove; but it does authorise the search of a person's mouth.
  - (6) An officer searching a person under sub-paragraph (2) may seize and retain anything he finds, if he has reasonable grounds for believing that the person searched might use it to cause physical injury to himself or to another person.

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**Changes to legislation:** Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Section 134 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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- (7) An officer searching a person under sub-paragraph (3)(a) may seize and retain anything he finds, if he has reasonable grounds for believing that he might use it to assist his escape from lawful custody.
- (8) An officer searching a person under sub-paragraph (3)(b) may seize and retain anything he finds, other than an item subject to legal privilege, if he has reasonable grounds for believing that it might be a document falling within that sub-paragraph.
- (9) Nothing seized under sub-paragraph (6) or (7) may be retained when the person from whom it was seized—
  - (a) is no longer in custody, or
  - (b) is in the custody of a court but has been released on bail.”

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 10(12) inserted by 2023 c. 37 s. 10(6)
- s. 40(1)-(1C) substituted for s. 40(1) by 2022 c. 36 s. 76(2)
- s. 40(4A)(4B) inserted by 2022 c. 36 s. 76(5)
- s. 72(10) repealed by 2004 c. 19 Sch. 4
- s. 94(2A)-(2C) inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 3(3)
- s. 94(2D) inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 7(4)
- s. 94(3)(3A) substituted for s. 94(3) by 2002 c. 41 s. 44(4) (This amendment is repealed (prosp.) by 2016 c. 19, Sch. 11 para. 41)
- s. 94(3A)-(3D) inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 3(5)
- s. 95A inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 9
- s. 96(1A) inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 10(3)
- s. 97(3A)(b)(iv) inserted by 2022 c. 36 s. 13(2)(c)(ii)
- s. 97(8)(9) inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 11(4)
- s. 98A inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 13
- s. 98A(5) inserted by 2022 c. 36 s. 13(4)
- s. 103(4)(a) words substituted by 2004 c. 19 s. 10(4)(b)
- s. 103(5)(b) word substituted by S.I. 2008/2833 Sch. 3 para. 183(ii)
- s. 103A(1) words substituted by 2004 c. 19 s. 10(5)
- s. 103A(1) heading words substituted by 2004 c. 19 s. 10(5)
- s. 103A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2008/2833 Sch. 3 para. 184
- s. 125(2)(ba) inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 22(3)(b)
- s. 146(2)(za) inserted by 2016 c. 19 s. 44(9)
- s. 166(5)(ca) substituted for word in s. 166(5)(c) by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24(2)
- s. 166(5A)(5B) inserted by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24(3)
- s. 166(6)(aa) substituted for word in s. 166(6)(a) by 2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24(4)
- Sch. 2 para. 21 modified by 2002 c. 41 s. 23(2)(a)
- Sch. 3 para. 2(5) modified by 2002 c. 41 s. 23(2)(b)