

Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures

21.4 Kirpans

Policy summary

A Kirpan is a small sword or knife usually blunt, worn in a sheath by a person of the Sikh faith while carrying out their religious observance.

The Governor or delegated officer may authorise staff working in a correctional centre or any other place of detention to carry a Kirpan.

Staff wanting permission to carry a Kirpan must complete appropriate documentation, and receive authorisation, prior to carrying a Kirpan into a correctional centre or any other place of detention.

Management of Public Correctional Centres Service Specifications

Service specification	Professionalism and accountability
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Scope

This section applies to all correctional centres and other facilities administered by or on behalf of Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW), and all CSNSW employees.

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1 Kirpans

1.1 Policy

CSNSW staff are not permitted to bring any form of knife or blade into correctional centres or any other places of detention.

In recognition of Sikh religious and cultural requirements, officers may apply to their Governor to wear a metallic miniature Kirpan (Sikh dagger) with a blade that does not exceed 7.5 centimetres in length or a medallion bearing the image of a Kirpan.

Officers wishing to apply for approval must complete *Authority to carry a kirpan in a CSNSW place of detention*.

A photo of the Kirpan (taken next to a ruler to indicate the size) must be attached to the application. The application must be forwarded to their Governor or Manager of Security (MOS) in charge for approval.

If approved, the officer is permitted to wear the Kirpan under the following conditions:

- the Kirpan blade must not exceed 7.5 centimetres in length
- the Kirpan must be attached to their uniform and concealed
- the officer must remove the Kirpan prior to proceeding through the metal detector/portal but may replace it after the screening process
- the letter of approval must be carried at all times while the officer is on duty.

2 Quick links

- [Related COPP](#)
- [Forms and annexures](#)
- [Related documents](#)

3 Definitions

COPP	Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures
CSNSW	Corrective Services NSW
Kirpan	A sword or knife carried by Sikhs
MOS	Manager of Security
Sikh	An adherent to Sikhism
Sikhism	A type of religion

4 Document information

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1.0		Initial publication (<i>Replaces section 12.1.20 of the superseded Operations Procedures Manual</i>)
1.1	12/03/20	General formatting update and improvements