

WEAPON PRINTING

The outline of a concealed firearm that is visible through clothing.



What is printing?

Printing occurs when the shape or outline of a concealed firearm is visible through a person's clothing, even though the weapon is not exposed.

Common indicators

- Angular shape (e.g., grip or slide)
- A consistent, localized bulge
- Visible under certain clothing and lighting conditions
- More noticeable during movement (e.g., walking, bending, reaching)

Key points

- Printing alone does not confirm a weapon is present.
- Consider it with other contextual and behavioral indicators.
- Be observant, not reactive.

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JACKET SAG

One side of a jacket hangs lower due to the weight of a concealed object, such as a firearm.



No weapon (balanced jacket)



With weapon (jacket sag)

What is jacket sag?

Jacket sag occurs when the weight of a concealed object—often a firearm in a pocket or inside the jacket—causes one side of the jacket to hang lower than the other or appear pulled down.

Common indicators

- One side of the jacket hangs noticeably lower than the other
- Fabric may appear pulled tight toward the weighted pocket
- The jacket may swing or move differently on one side when walking
- The person may keep a hand in the pocket or hold the jacket still

Key points

- Jacket sag alone does not confirm a weapon is present.
- Other heavy items (e.g., phone, tools, wallet) can also cause sagging.
- Consider jacket sag with other contextual and behavioral indicators.
- Be observant, not reactive.

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INAPPROPRIATE OR HEAVY CLOTHING

Wearing unusually heavy, layered, or baggy clothing—especially in warm weather—may be an attempt to conceal a weapon or explosive.



Hot summer day
(most people in light clothing)

Individual wearing heavy,
layered clothing



Close-up view
(layers and bulk)



Example of what could be concealed
(for illustrative purposes only)

What is inappropriate clothing?

Wearing unusually heavy, layered, or baggy clothing that is inconsistent with the weather or the environment—such as a heavy jacket, multiple layers, or oversized garments—may be an attempt to conceal a weapon or explosive device from plain sight.

Common indicators

- Heavy or layered clothing in hot weather
- Baggy or oversized garments
- Clothing that obscures normal body contours (especially around the torso/waist)
- Unusual bulk or stiffness in the clothing
- Wearing clothing that appears out of place for the setting or season

Key points

- Inappropriate clothing alone does not confirm a weapon or explosive is present.
- Many people have legitimate reasons to wear heavy or layered clothing.
- Consider this indicator in combination with other behavioral and contextual factors.
- Be observant, not reactive.

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Gait



FBI Field Audio Video Program



Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20009

*Times are approximate

HUNCHBACK STRIDE

A forward-leaning, hunched posture and altered stride that may be used to conceal a long object, such as a long gun, under clothing.

Look for unnatural posture and gait, especially when combined with clothing that hangs stiffly or does not move naturally.

1 Normal posture (for comparison)



Upright posture
Natural arm swing
Coat moves freely

2 Beginning to hunch



Slight forward lean
Reduced arm swing
Coat begins to hang stiffly

3 Noticeable hunch



Forward-leaning posture
Arm held close to body
Stiff, uneven coat movement

4 Exaggerated hunch (for training emphasis)



Marked forward lean
Shortened stride
Coat hangs stiffly and close

What is hunchback stride?

Hunchback stride refers to a forward-leaning or hunched posture and altered gait that may be used to conceal a long object—such as a shotgun, rifle, or similar item—under clothing.

Common indicators

- Forward-leaning or hunched posture
- One shoulder may appear elevated or rounded
- Coat or outer garment hangs stiffly and does not move naturally
- Altered or shortened stride
- Arms held close to the body
- May appear to favor one side
- Often seen with long coats, jackets, or oversized clothing

Key points

- Hunchback stride is an indicator, not proof that a weapon is present.
- There can be innocent explanations (e.g., injury, medical condition, cold weather).
- Consider in combination with other behavioral and contextual indicators.
- Be observant, not reactive.

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Palming

- Using the hand, arm, or leg to obscure a small object from view
- Possible Indicators
 - Palm or hand deliberately kept out of view
 - One hand held unusually closed, cupped, or fixed
 - Hand positioned against the thigh, leg, or forearm
 - Reduced or asymmetric arm swing while walking
 - Persistent positioning that prevents observation of the palm
 - May be associated with concealment of a small edged weapon or other object
- *Don't just watch the hands – ask whether you can actually see the palms.*

Weapon Check



RECONNAISSANCE / SURVEILLANCE BEHAVIOR

Repeated observation of people, procedures, security measures, or access points without an apparent ordinary purpose may be a concern.

Look for patterns of behavior, not a single action. These behaviors may be innocent, but together they can indicate reconnaissance or surveillance.



1 Loitering	2 Taking Photos/Video	3 Scanning for Security	4 Scanning the Area	5 Avoids Eye Contact	6 Covert Ties with Others	7 Hesitation or Indecision	8 Bag Heavier than Expected
Loiters in or around entrances, exits, or high pedestrian traffic zones without apparent reasonable cause.	Appears to photograph or videotape the facility, entrances, security measures, or people.	Looks for security personnel or police. Line of sight directed toward checkpoints, cameras, or security positions.	Looks around repeatedly (e.g., 360-degree surveys) as if assessing the environment for potential threats or vulnerabilities.	Avoids interaction with security personnel or police. When engaged, averts eyes or fails to acknowledge the official's presence.	Subtly communicates with one or more travelers who do not appear to be traveling together, but seem to know each other.	Appears tentative at a stress point (e.g., approaching security), with stopping, pausing, or redirecting.	Carries a bag that appears heavier, larger, or denser than expected, or one that does not suit the individual's appearance.

Key Point:

Look for behavioral clusters and patterns, not a single behavior. Reconnaissance behavior may be a preamble to a malicious act, but is not proof of intent. Always consider the totality of behavior, context, and persistence.

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Behavioral Clustering

- Trembling
- Avoids eye contact w/ security personnel or police
- Scans area, appearing to look for security personnel or Police
- Hesitation or indecision on entering the checkpoint
- Bag appears heavier than expected
- Maintains covert ties with others
- Surveillance

OTHER CONTEXTS

How to Watch the Hands (Siegfried, 2010, *Police Magazine*)

Under most circumstances, when a person brings a weapon into play, he/she has to make at least two movements with the hand.

- First, the thumb and index finger move toward the center of their body.
- Next, the elbow moves out away from the body.

By focusing on these telltale movements, officers can perceive when a weapon might be coming into play and respond accordingly.

How to Watch the Hands

(Siegfried, 2010, *Police Magazine*)

- Although they might be a precursor to an assault on the officer, movements of the hands away from the center of the body where the thumb and index finger are *not* extended are *less* of a threat than movements where the thumb and index fingers are moving to the center of the body.
- Never bring a control hold to a gun fight.



A person might seem to be innocently reaching for an ID, when in fact he's reaching for a gun.

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Look for the way the hand is positioned in relation to the body for signs that a subject is going for a weapon.

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apon into play, a suspect must make two movements with his hand. First, the thumb and index finger move toward the center of the body. Next, the elbow moves out from the body.

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When approaching a subject, focus on movements of the thumb, index finger, and elbow.

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One underutilized technique is forecasting the hand movements of a contact.

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he hands away from the center of the body where the thumb and index finger are extended are less of a threat than movements where the thumb and index fingers are moving to the center of the body.

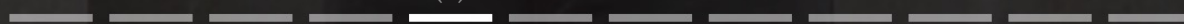
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A subject holding up open hands, even in an aggressive manner, is less of a threat because he can't easily reach a weapon.

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Determining Identity (Siegfried, 2010, *Police Magazine*)

- People make the same hand motion to reach a wallet from their rear pocket as they would to access a weapon.
- Know where the suspect's hands will be going to perform a requested action.

Determining Identity (Siegfried, 2010, *Police Magazine*)

- Consider the following:
 - Instead of, “I need to see your license,” say, “Where do you keep your identification?”
 - Also consider, “What form of ID do you have?”
 - Have the subject turn to their side so you can see what he/she is retrieving.
 - Tell the subject to use only his/her thumb and forefinger to slowly remove the wallet.
 - Once the wallet is out tell him/her to remove the identification. Do not take the wallet.



Have a subject turn sideways so you can see what he is retrieving from his pocket.

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Tell a suspect to use only his thumb and forefinger to slowly remove his wallet.

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Many agencies do not take wallets from contacts prior to arrest. This is a good practice, because it limits the subject's ability to take something, such as money, from the wallet during the initial contact.

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Once the wallet is out, tell the subject to remove his identification.

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Traffic Stops

- 10 Nonverbal Signs all Officers should be able to Recognize and Interpret
- From *Glennon, Marcou, and Remsberg, Street Survival II*''

VEHICLE BEHAVIOR

Watch for behaviors inside the vehicle that may indicate risk, planning, or preparation.

People can prepare, hide, or coordinate inside the vehicle—even when they initially appear calm.

1. IMMEDIATE EXIT

Driver or passenger exits quickly upon your approach.



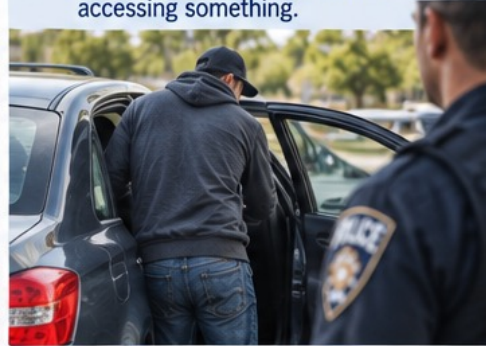
2. SCRAMBLING INSIDE

Reaching, moving around, or “scrambling” in the vehicle.



3. RETURNING TO VEHICLE

Going back to the vehicle (after exiting) may indicate changing plans or accessing something.



4. HEAD TURNING / SCANNING

Repeatedly looking around, at you, or at others as you approach.



5. INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS

Communicating or signaling to other occupants (verbal or nonverbal).



6. CONCEALING OR ACCESSING

Reaching toward areas where items may be hidden (under seat, center console, glove box, etc.).



7. TENSE / FIDGETY BEHAVIOR

Unusually tense, restless, or fidgety movements while seated.



8. MULTI-PERSON DYNAMICS

Watch for coordinated behavior among multiple occupants.



KEY POINT:

Vehicle behaviors are potential indicators—not proof of intent. Consider the totality of behaviors, the people involved, and the context of the encounter.

Source: Glennon, Marcou, and Remsberg, *Street Survival II*.
“10 Nonverbal Signs all Officers should be able to Recognize and Interpret.”

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SOMETHING IS CHANGING

Watch for noticeable changes in a person's nonverbal behavior as the encounter becomes more consequential.

It's not a single behavior—
it's a change from the person's
previous baseline.

1. BASELINE

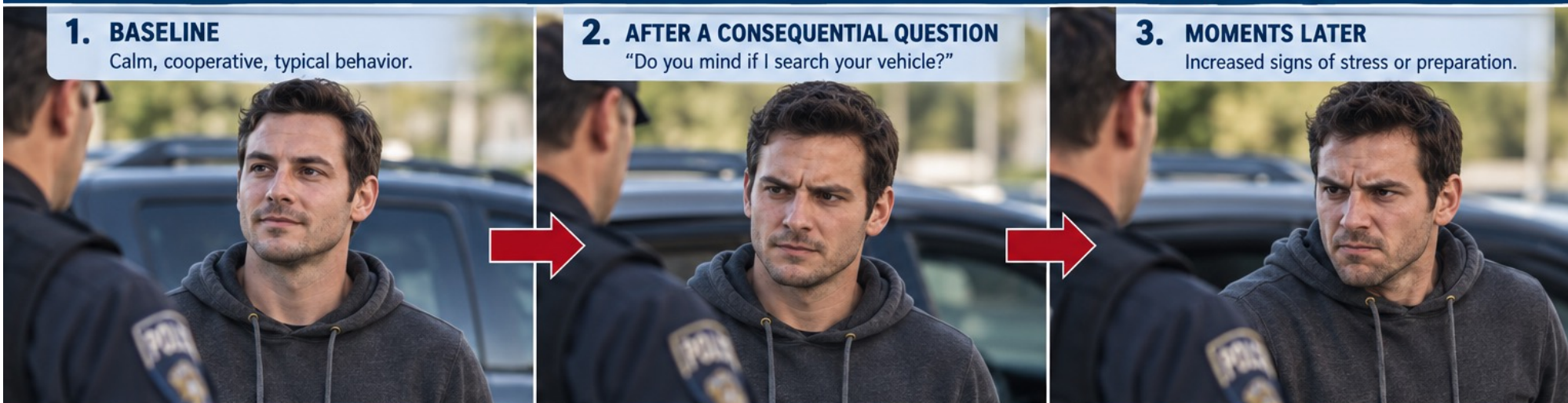
Calm, cooperative, typical behavior.

2. AFTER A CONSEQUENTIAL QUESTION

"Do you mind if I search your vehicle?"

3. MOMENTS LATER

Increased signs of stress or preparation.



EYES Normal blink rate, relaxed gaze.	BROW / MICROEXPRESSIONS Brow furrows, eyes widen, reduced blinking.	MOUTH Relaxed.	JAW TENSION Lips press together, clenched jaw (e.g., pursed lips, bared teeth).	HANDS Open, relaxed.	FIST CLENCHING Hands tighten, fists may close.	BODY TENSION Normal posture.	SHOULDERS Muscles tighten, shoulders rise (trapezius tension).	BREATHING Normal.	RAPID BREATHING Mouth breathing or panting.

LOWER CONCERN

CHANGE FROM BASELINE

HIGHER CONCERN

! KEY POINT: These behaviors are potential indicators of increased stress or preparation for action. Individually they do not prove intent, but changes—especially when they occur together—deserve attention.

Source: Glennon, Marcou, and Remsburg. *Street Survival II*.
"10 Nonverbal Signs all Officers should be able to Recognize and Interpret."

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PREPARING FOR ACTION

Look for body cues that suggest the person is getting ready to act.

Often subtle.
Often in combination.
Always consider the context.

1. TARGET GLANCE



Repeatedly looks at the officer's weapon, face, or other key areas.

2. HANDS / STRONG-SIDE DIP



Hand moves toward strong side or becomes hidden from view.

3. FIGHTING STANCE

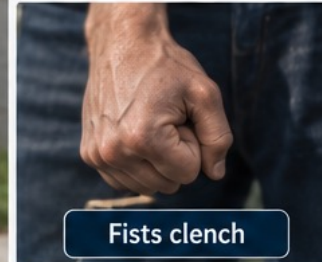


Body turns slightly, fists clench, strong side drops back.

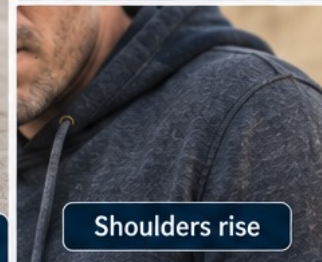
4. CLENCHING



Jaw tightens



Fists clench



Shoulders rise

5. FOCUSED ATTENTION



Attention narrows, scanning and orienting for opportunity.



KEY POINT:

These behaviors are potential indicators of preparation for action—not proof of intent. Look for patterns and consider the totality of the circumstances.

Source: Glennon, Marcou, and Remsberg, *Street Survival II*.
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Positioning & Movement

Watch for changes in position and movement that may create a tactical advantage.

People don't just show their intent—they position themselves for it.

1. FLANKING

Moves to the side or behind the officer (especially with multiple subjects).



One subject shifts to the side or behind the officer, creating a positional advantage.

2. COORDINATING WITH OTHERS

Nonverbal cues or positioning with other subjects (e.g., eye contact, gestures, movement).



Subjects may signal, make eye contact, or position themselves in relation to each other.

3. PACING / RESTLESS MOVEMENT

Repeated, purposeless, or increasing movement (e.g., pacing, circling, shifting weight) that may indicate rising arousal or preparation.



Repeated movement without a clear purpose can indicate increasing arousal or preparation.

4. ORIENTING / ADVANCING

Subtle repositioning, angle changes, or closing distance to gain a more advantageous position.



Subjects may gradually close distance or adjust their angle to create a better position for action.



KEY POINT:

Positioning and movement are potential indicators—not proof of intent. Look for patterns and consider the totality of the circumstances.

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CONTEXTUAL BEHAVIORS

Other nonverbal behaviors that may indicate increased stress, deception, or preparation.

Often subtle.
Often situational.
Most meaningful in combination
and within context.

1. GROOMING / STRETCHING

Self-directed behaviors such as adjusting hair or clothing, checking for “lint,” or stretching—especially after a consequential question.



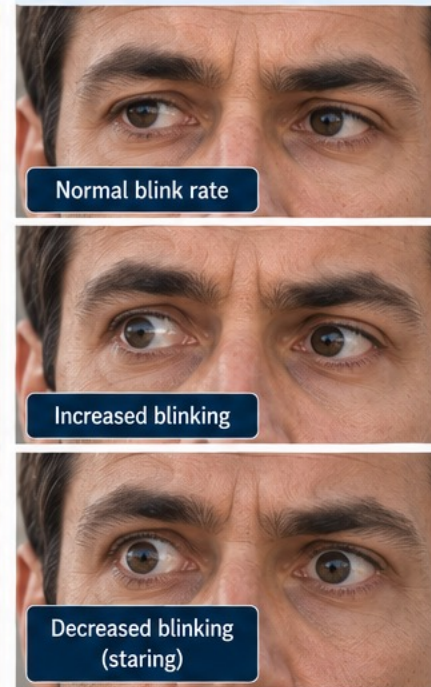
2. TARGET GLANCE

Repeated or obvious visual attention to a particular area of the officer's body or equipment (e.g., weapon, face, throat, or eyes).



3. RAPID EYE BLINKING

A dramatic increase or decrease in blinking may indicate stress or heightened arousal (e.g., “thousand-yard stare” when blinking decreases).



4. MISCELLANEOUS INDICATORS

A variety of other behaviors that may indicate increased stress, arousal, or preparation for action.



! KEY POINT:

These behaviors are potential indicators—not proof of intent.
Their meaning depends on the **totality of behaviors** and the **context** of the encounter.

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