



Nishnawbe Aski Police Service  
Professional Standards Bureau – GHQ  
973 Balmoral Street, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 0E2

## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** September 17, 2025  
**TO:** Nishnawbe Aski Police Service Board  
**FROM:** Nishnawbe Aski Police Service Professional Standards Bureau  
**SUBJECT:** Section 81 Report Required under the *Community Safety and Policing Act*,  
SIU File #25-ICI-060  
For information purposes

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Under subsection 81(1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, if the SIU Director causes an incident to be investigated under Section 15 of the *Special Investigations Unit Act*, the Chief of Police shall investigate; the members conduct in relation to the incident, the policing provided by the member in relation to the incident; and the procedures established by the Chief of Police as they related to the incident.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 90/24 *General Matters Under the Authority of the Minister*, made under the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, the Chief of Police is required to report on an investigation completed as per subsection 81(1) and shall give the report to the Police Service Board.

### **Incident Summary**

On February 12, 2025, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS), Fort Hope Detachment officers began dealing with a female in a mental health crisis.

Responding officers were able to locate the female and apprehend her under the *Mental Health Act*, as she stated that was going home to grab razor blades and swallow them. The female was known for exhibiting that type of behavior.

The female was transported to the nursing station and seen by medical staff. Upon the medical assessment, the female denied having the razor blades or swallowing them.

Just before being medically cleared by the Doctor, officers again asked the female if she had any blades on her person, to which she advised she did. The female spit the blade out from her mouth but stated she had swallowed another blade. The Doctor cleared the female, however, requested she return for an x-ray the following day. The female was subsequently released to her father.

On February 13, 2025, officers were advised by NAPS SIU Liaison to transport the female back to the clinic for a follow up x-ray. The female was cleared again by the Doctor as no razor blades showed up in the x-ray.



## MEMORANDUM

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Shortly after, officers received a call from the nursing station requesting the female be returned to have a chest x-ray completed. The female was located at the Community Centre where she was waiting to appear for court.

Upon arrival at the Community Centre, officers spoke with the female and conducted a search, which included a search of her mouth for safety which yielded negative results.

The female was transported to the nursing station where she received an x-ray. The Doctor advised officers that the female swallowed a razor blade as seen in the x-ray. The Doctor advised officers to return only if the female began developing pain symptoms.

Once cleared, the female was arrested for breach of Undertaking and Harassing Communications, and read her Rights to Counsel and Caution, handcuffed to the rear and thoroughly searched by officers and a nurse, which included searching the inside of her mouth.

The female was transported to the Fort Hope Detachment where she was searched again for the second time. Another search of the mouth was completed along with a strip search by a female officer in private. The female was lodged in cell the Detachment cells.

Officers performed a physical check on the female while in her cell and observed blood in the cell area surrounding her. Officers entered the cell and handcuffed the female to the rear. Several superficial cuts were observed on both wrists. At this point, the female confirmed she swallowed another razor blade.

Officers conducted another search. The female was transported back to the nursing station. The cell was secured in the event of a potential SIU investigation.

The nurse and female officer performed a strip search on the female. Each item of clothing was searched as well as her entire body. The search revealed negative results.

The female was transferred to a room at which time the nurse completed another search of her mouth. The female was taken for another x-ray.

The Doctor advised officers the results of the x-ray showed two razor blades in the females' intestines. Officers were provided with symptom specific information that would require the female to return to the hospital.

The Doctor cleared the female, and officers transported her back to the Detachment. Officers searched her again with negative results. She was lodged in cells for a bail hearing. It was noted that she had conditions which stated, "not to be in possession of razor blades." A guard was assigned to the cell to provide constant observation.



## MEMORANDUM

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After the female was remanded into custody, officers transported her back to the nursing station prior to her departure to a detention facility as she was complaining of some stomach pain. Nurses completed an assessment, and she was cleared.

On February 13, 2025, NAPS contacted the SIU to notify them of the in-custody injury. SIU initiated an investigation and identified Witness Officials.

On February 14, 2025, the SIU requested records from NAPS to begin their investigation.

On June 11, 2025, the SIU notified NAPS that the investigation by SIU was completed, and there were no reasonable grounds to believe that any NAPS officers committed a criminal offence in connection with the matter.

### **Section 81 Review – Conclusion**

After reviewing the incident, it was determined that there were no concerns of misconduct or policy/procedure breaches. The officers involved in the apprehension and arrest of the female were aware of her prior history of self-harm and the need to be vigilant in their search and supervision responsibilities.

NAPS officers at the Fort Hope Detachment dealt with the female four separate times throughout the day for mental health concerns. In each incident, officers were patient and took the mental health allegations seriously. Officers utilized their proper authorities under the *Mental Health Act* to apprehend the female for herself, officers and the public's safety.

In this specific occurrence, the female was brought to nurses at the medical facility for checkups multiple times prior to the razor blade being found. Officers were concerned and remained diligent in monitoring the female's injury and brought her back to the medical facility as she was complaining of some pain.

### **Police Orders Reviewed During Section 81 Review**

- NAPS Chapter 2 – Law Enforcement
  - o 2.41.1 ARREST RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND CAUTION
  - o 2.43 SEARCH OF PERSON
  - o 2.47 PRISONER CARE AND CONTROL
  - o 2.20 MENTAL HEALTH OCCURRENCE/PERSON IN CRISIS
- NAPS Chapter 6 – Administration and Infrastructure
  - o 6.42.2 CODE OF CONDUCT IN THE NAPS

### **Recommendations as a Result of the Section 81 Review**



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As noted above, the officers conducted themselves in a professional and respectful manner throughout their involvement in the incident. The officers acted within their lawful authority and within the requirements of NAPS Police Orders – Policy and Procedure.

It was noted after a complete review of the incident and NAPS Police Orders, that the officers involved in the strip search should have articulated the approval and their authority in officer notes. The officers involved were spoken to and reminded to be aware of, refer to and review NAPS Police Orders prior to completing a strip search in the future.