

## **BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

#### **RESTRAINTS, TRANSPORT, HIGH RISK & ESCAPE**

Reviewed by: Lt. James B. Clesson	Effective Date: May 15, 1996
Authorized by: Chief Jamal Simington	Revision Date: August 1, 2025

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure is to establish guidelines for the safe and effective use of restraints, the secure transport of individuals in custody or detained for investigatory purposes, and the appropriate response to high-risk situations and custody escapes. This SOP is intended to promote officer safety, ensure the humane treatment of individuals in custody, and maintain public trust through consistent and accountable practices.

#### **POLICY**

Restraints and transport procedures shall be used lawfully, reasonably, and in accordance with officer training. Only approved devices may be used. All custodies will be treated with respect and transported safely.

#### **RESTRAINTS AND HANDCUFFING**

#### **PROCEDURE**

#### **TYPES OF RESTRAINTS AUTHORIZED**

The following restraint devices are authorized for use by officers of this department:

- Standard hinged or chain handcuffs
- Flex cuffs
- Nylon restraints ("hobble" or "leg restraints" devices)
- Transport belts or chains
- Soft restraints (used for medical or mental health transports, when appropriate)

#### **APPLICATION OF HANDCUFFS**

Restraints may be used under the following circumstances:

- When an individual is under arrest or lawfully detained and poses a risk of flight or violence
- To ensure officer or public safety during transport or detention
- When ordered by a supervisor due to articulable safety concerns

- When an individual is combative or otherwise poses a physical threat to themselves or others

Use of restraints shall be guided by the following principles:

- **Double-Locking:** All handcuffs shall be double-locked immediately after application to prevent over-tightening and potential injury
- **Fit Check:** Officers shall ensure that restraints are applied securely but not so tight as to restrict blood flow or cause discomfort or injury. The officer shall verify the fit by inserting a fingertip between the cuff and the custody's wrist
- **Monitoring:** Individuals in restraints shall be continuously monitored for signs of distress, pain, medical need, or positional asphyxia
- **Positioning:** Detainees shall not be placed or left in positions known to increase the risk of positional asphyxia, such as lying face down (prone) for extended periods
- **Medical Consideration:** If a detainee complains of pain, injury, or difficulty breathing while restrained, officers shall promptly assess the situation and request medical assistance if necessary

Transport-Specific Restraint Guidelines:

- All arrestees or detainees shall be handcuffed prior to transport, unless circumstances clearly indicate that doing so would be unsafe or medically inadvisable
- Individuals shall be handcuffed with their hands behind their back unless there is an apparent injury, physical limitation, or disability that prevents this
- In such cases where front-handcuffing is required, officers shall utilize a department-issued leather restraint belt with a locking ring to secure the subject's hands. These belts are maintained in each command vehicle and in the department's transport van
- When feasible, the department's designated transport van should be used for custodies requiring special restraint accommodations or who present a higher risk of escape or safety concerns

Additional Safety Measures:

- Double-locking of handcuffs is mandatory in all cases to prevent tightening and injury during transport
- Officers must assess and adjust restraints as needed during detention and transport to ensure the subject's safety and dignity are preserved

## **APPLICATION OF LEG SHACKLES**

In some instances, metal leg shackles are authorized for use. Refer to the section titled "Transport of Enhanced-Risk Custody" found within this SOP for more information on when metal leg shackles should be utilized.

Metal leg shackles should be applied to the custody before placement in the custody transport van if possible.

In all cases when leg shackles are applied, the double lock should be activated to prevent any injury to the custody due to the leg shackles tightening down. The officer should verify the leg shackles are not too tight by placing a finger between the locked cuff hasp and the ankle of the custody.

## **APPLICATION OF NYLON RESTRAINTS**

If the custody is kicking, or otherwise combative, the department's custody transport van should be utilized for their transport. If the department's custody transport van is not available, although less desirable, one of the following methods may be used to secure the custody with the use of nylon leg restraints:

### Rear Seat Application:

- Whenever possible, more than one officer should assist in restraining the custody.
- The custody should be placed on the ground and physically restrained with their legs held together.
- Apply the nylon restraint snugly around the ankles.
- After application, place the custody in the rear seat of the police vehicle with their feet flat on the floorboard.
- Route the loose end of the restraint through the bottom of the door closest to the custody. Ensure it is not hanging outside the vehicle to prevent entanglement during transport.
- Upon arrival at the destination, the restraint may be pulled upward and secured to the handcuff chain or belt area to limit balance and reduce resistance.
- Assist the custody while walking and avoid stairs when possible.

### Front Seat Application:

- A combative custody may only be transported in the front seat with approval from an on-duty supervisor.
- If approved, the nylon restraint should be applied using the same steps outlined in the **Rear Seat Application** section.

### Other Applications:

In some circumstances, the nylon restraints can assist officers in securing the arms of custodies (typically if they have very small wrists or slip out of the handcuffs or some other unusual circumstance). This is achieved by placing the restraints above the elbows and tightening the restraints to secure the custodies arms.

## **CUSTODIES TO BE SEARCHED FOLLOWING ARREST**

[Refer to SOP 5.03: Searching Persons in Custody / Frisking of Persons Detained.](#)

## **CUSTODIES INSIDE BPD TO BE SEARCHED USING METAL DETECTOR**

[Refer to SOP 5.03: Searching Persons in Custody / Frisking of Persons Detained.](#)

## **VEHICLE PREPARATION**

At the beginning of shift, the assigned police vehicle should be searched by the officer. This search is intended to ensure that no contraband has been left in the vehicle during a prior transport. Areas searched are those areas that an individual could have placed contraband.

At the beginning of shift, each officer should ensure the assigned police vehicle has a pair of leg shackles. If the leg shackles are missing, the on-duty supervisor should be notified, and an equipment replacement request be made. Supervisory approval is necessary to utilize a marked police vehicle without leg shackles.

Prior to transport, the area around where the custody will sit should be searched to confirm no contraband is present. Note: this shall be done in addition to the vehicle having been searched at the beginning of shift.

Prior to placing the custody into the police vehicle for transport, the custody should be properly searched. This search shall be completed by the transport officer even if the custody has been searched by another officer.

Upon securing the custody at the end of a transport, the vehicle shall again be fully searched before going back into service. Any contraband located can be documented for possible charges. Officers should document in their police report that searches were conducted both before and after the custodial transport. If no police report is required, the officer should document the search of their vehicle in the call notes with dispatch.

## **SUBJECTS PERMITTED INSIDE POLICE VEHICLES**

No person, custody or otherwise, is to be detained, placed, permitted to enter, or be transported in an assigned police vehicle without being properly searched (in the case of custodies or detainees) or frisked for weapons. Custodial searches are to be done in compliance with [SOP 5.03: Searching of Persons In Custody / Frisking of Persons Detained](#), as well as [SOP 7.17: Pretrial Fairness Act](#).

## **CUSTODY TRANSPORT**

If an arrestee is to be transported, the transporting officer shall:

- Notify the Emergency Communications Center via radio of the number of custodies being transported, and the destination (McLean County Jail, BPD, etc.).
- If the arrestee is to be transported to the Bloomington Police Department officers shall notify the on-duty shift supervisor upon arrival.
- When transporting custodies of the opposite gender as the officer, or a juvenile, the officer shall give the location from which the custody is to be transported and the odometer reading prior to departing the scene. The odometer reading shall also be given immediately upon arrival at the intended destination. Note- The trip meter reading should not be used for this.
- If there are multiple custodies, or a custody is combative, the custody transport van should be utilized.

One custody transport:

- In a "caged" police vehicle, the transported custody will be placed in the rear seat of the vehicle and properly secured with the seat belt.
- In a one-officer police vehicle (no "cage"), the custody should be placed in the front seat and properly secured with the seat belt.
- In a two-officer police vehicle (no "cage"), the custody should be placed in the back seat, on the passenger's side, with the second officer in the back seat on the driver's side. The custody should be properly secured with the seat belt.
- The in-car video recording device shall be activated during transport.

Two custody transports:

- If a one-officer squad has two custodies, a second officer shall be called to assist with transportation.
- In a two-officer squad, one custody should be placed in the front seat. The other custody should be placed in the rear passenger seat with the second officer seated in the driver's side rear seat. Seat belts shall be used.
- When more than two custodies are to be transported, additional officers should be called to assist with transportation. If time and staffing permit, the arresting officer may request that the custody transport van be brought to the scene.
- The in-car video recording device shall be activated during transport.

## **TRANSPORT OF ENHANCED-RISK CUSTODY**

Some custodies present an enhanced transportation risk. Extra security measures shall be utilized to ensure maximum safety for the transporting officers, the custody, and the public.

Identifying enhanced-risk custodies:

The following factors shall classify a custody as an enhanced-risk custody.

- Custodies facing Murder, Attempted Murder and other Class X felonies.
- Custodies arrested for offenses related to the illegal discharge of a firearm.
- Custodies arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm.
- Custodies that have previously tried to escape from custody.
- Other serious pending charges may be considered in determining when an enhanced risk is present.

The following factors may also be considered upon further evaluation by officers:

- Custodies that have assaulted officers, either in the instant situation or during previous instance(s).
- Custodies under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Additional relevant facts or circumstances may be evaluated by the officer when considering whether an enhanced risk is present. This is not an all-inclusive list.

Transporting enhanced-risk custodies within our jurisdiction:

- Absent exigent circumstances, a minimum of two officers shall be used to transport all enhanced-risk custodies. This includes transporting the custody from the police department to the hospital, from the police department to the jail, etc.
- Metal leg shackles shall be used for all enhanced-risk custody transports.
- If the enhanced-risk custody is transported in an ambulance, at least one officer shall ride inside the ambulance with the custody.
- A supervisor's approval shall be required to deviate from the guidelines established for the transportation of an enhanced-risk custody.
- Unless the utilization of such would lead to excessive delay in transport, or other exigent circumstances exist, the departments custody transport van shall be considered for use when transporting an enhanced-risk custody.

Transporting enhanced-risk custodies from other jurisdictions:

- The transporting officer shall notify the on-duty shift supervisor prior to beginning the transport. If the transporting officer is assigned to a unit other than patrol (CID, SCU, etc.) the transporting officer shall also notify their direct supervisor, in addition to the on-duty shift supervisor.
- A minimum of two officers shall be used.
- An extensive custody search shall be completed, as well as:
- A department issued hand-held metal detector shall be utilized to scan the custody prior to beginning the transport.
- The custody shall be restrained with properly fastened handcuffs. For transports involving extended travel, a restraint belt may be utilized. Extended travel is defined as travel exceeding 30 miles from the Bloomington Police Department.
- The custody shall be restrained with properly fastened leg shackles.
- If an enhanced-risk custody is being transported in an ambulance, a minimum of one officer shall ride inside the ambulance with the custody while an additional officer follows the ambulance in a police vehicle.
- Absent exigent circumstances, enhanced-risk custodies shall be in properly fastened handcuffs and leg shackles while being transported in an ambulance.
- Additional security measures may be implemented if reasonable and prudent given the circumstances known to the officer and/or their supervisor at the time.

## **CUSTODIES TRANSPORTED TO A MEDICAL FACILITY**

The on-duty supervisor should be notified whenever a custody is taken to a medical facility. When a custody is transported to a medical facility, absent a supervisor's approval, the transporting officer shall remain with the custody, unless circumstances prohibit.

If a custody will be at the hospital for an extended length of time for treatment or admittance, the transporting officer shall notify the appropriate supervisor. The supervisor, having

considered the severity of the crime and any potential risk to others, shall decide if the custody is to be:

- Released from custody.
- Released from custody pending prosecutorial review for later charges.
- Released from custody and issued a Notice to Appear.
- Left in the care of the hospital guarded by an officer.
- Left in the care of the hospital unguarded and request that hospital staff notify officers when the subject is due to be released from care.

If the determination is that the custody shall be released from custody, the transporting officer shall remove any handcuffs or other law enforcement restraints placed on the custody. The transporting officer shall notify the custody as well as the attending medical staff that they are no longer in custody. If applicable the transporting officer may inform the custody of known further police action i.e., case being forwarded to States Attorney for charging, ticket, or ordinance violation issuance.

The transporting officer should not direct medical staff to call with notification if the (now former) custody is released or otherwise give the medical staff any reason to believe that there is an expectation for them to guard the subject.

Considerations for custodies taken to a medical facility:

- At least one officer shall be present whenever a custody is in the hospital.
- Custodies shall not be left alone in the hospital without supervisory approval.
- Officer's body worn cameras shall remain on, and recording, when guarding a custody at the hospital.
- Unless there is a medical reason not to, handcuffs or wrist restraints shall be utilized, and not removed, from the custody while at the hospital.
- Leg shackles may be utilized in the hospital.
- Custodies shall not have visitors in the hospital without supervisory approval.
- If a custody will be at the hospital for an extended length of time, or admitted, the transporting officer shall notify the on-duty supervisor.

Enhanced-risk custodies taken to a medical facility:

- Absent exigent circumstances, before an enhanced-risk custody is transported to the hospital, a supervisor shall be notified.
- Absent exigent circumstances, an on-duty supervisor shall respond to the hospital to ensure all safety and transportation protocols are being followed for the enhanced-risk custody.
- Enhanced-risk custodies shall not be left alone in the hospital unless approved by a Lieutenant, Assistant Chief, or Chief of Police.
- Officer's body worn cameras shall remain on, and recording, when guarding an enhanced-risk custody at the hospital.

- Unless there is a medical reason not to, handcuffs or wrist restraints shall be utilized and not removed from the enhanced-risk custody while at the hospital.
- Unless there is a medical reason not to, leg shackles shall be utilized and not removed from the enhanced-risk custody while at the hospital.
- A minimum of two officers shall be present when an enhanced-risk custody is in the hospital. There shall be no exceptions to this rule unless approved by a Lieutenant, Assistant Chief, or Chief of Police.
- Enhanced-risk custodies shall not have visitors in the hospital without supervisory approval.
- Additional security measures may be utilized if the on-duty supervisor approves.

Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with an enhanced-risk custody receiving necessary medical treatment. Officers need not be present in situations where it is necessary that the custody be moved to an area within the medical facility which requires restricted access, such as the operating room. Restraints may also be removed temporarily and within reason for required medical services and treatment such as the taking of X-rays. Safety and security must be reasonably balanced with necessary medical treatments.

#### **Carle BroMenn Medical Center**

If the supervisor has authorized the custody to be left in the care of the hospital with no officers present, the transporting officer shall:

- Tell the hospital staff that the custody has a "Police Hold."
- Contact the Carle BroMenn Public Safety Supervisor either in person or by calling 309-268-5050 and advise them that a ["Request from Law Enforcement for Release of Protected Health Information" form \(See Appendix A\)](#) is needed if the custody will be released or the "Prisoner Patient Security Checklist" if the custody will be admitted to the hospital.
- This form will be completed by the Public Safety Supervisor and is for hospital use and officers do not need to retain a copy.
- The Public Safety Supervisor will forward the completed form to hospital staff notifying them to contact the Public Safety Supervisor on the custody's pending release.
- The Carle BroMenn Public Safety Supervisor will notify the Bloomington Police Department on the pending release. NOTE: Carle BroMenn will not further hold, detain or monitor a patient in cases where law enforcement is unable to arrive at the designated release time.
- The transporting officer will be required to sign the appropriate form.
- When probable cause for arrest is developed after leaving the hospital, an officer can notify the hospital by phone of a "Police Hold". The officer should contact the Public Safety Supervisor at 309-268-5050, who will complete the form over the phone and notify hospital staff.

#### **OSF St. Joseph Medical Center**

If the supervisor has authorized the custody to be left in the care of the hospital with no officers present, the transporting officer shall:

- Tell the hospital staff that the custody has a "Police Hold."

- Contact the Charge Nurse and advise him/her that a ["Law Enforcement Request for Release of Protected Health Information" form \(Appendix B\) is needed if](#) the custody will be admitted to the hospital.
- The form will be completed and is for hospital use. Officers do not need to retain a copy form.
- The completed form will be entered into the custody's medical records.
- OSF personnel will notify the Bloomington Police Department of the pending release.

## **CUSTODY ESCAPE**

In the event of a custody escape, the following steps shall occur:

Duties of the transporting officer:

- Immediately notify the Emergency Communications Center via the primary radio channel of the situation.
- Broadcast information, to include:
  - Name of subject.
  - Clothing and physical description.
  - Last known location and direction of travel.
  - Criminal charges.
- Verify the shift supervisor is aware of the situation.
- Responding officers may choose to utilize the Perimeter Assist capabilities of the Emergency Communications Center as detailed in [SOP 5.23: Perimeter Assist](#).
- The transporting officer shall prepare a written police report detailing the escape.

Duties of the on-duty supervisor:

- Upon being made aware of the escape, the supervisor shall continuously monitor the incident, responding to the scene to assume command of the incident.
- Be responsible for determining whether any further actions or additional resources will be needed. This may include:
  - Calling for additional resources (canine, UAV/drones, SWAT, CID, etc).
  - Requesting mutual aid from other jurisdictions.
  - Calling in off-duty personnel to assist.
  - Establishing a Command Post.
- Direct the Bloomington Emergency Communications Center to notify METCOM and the Illinois State Police Dispatch to relay pertinent information if the suspect is not apprehended in a timely manner.
- Notify the Assistant Chief of Operations of the situation as soon as practical.
- Author an official memorandum to the Assistant Chief of Operations detailing the incident, response, and findings.

All custody escapes may be reviewed by the Departmental Review Board. For additional information, refer to [SOP 4.08: Departmental Review Board](#).

## **APPENDIX**

[Appendix A: Carle BroMenn Request from Law Enforcement for Release of Protected Health Information form](#)

[Appendix B: OSF Healthcare Law Enforcement Request for Release of Protected Health Information form](#)