

Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Chapter 4 — Operations

Section Number: 4-5-5
Section Title: Transportation of Prisoners
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I. Policy

- A. Transporting prisoners is a potentially dangerous function. Therefore, it is the policy of this department to take the precautions necessary while transporting prisoners to protect the lives and safety of officers, the public, and the person in custody.

II. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines for transporting persons in custody of law enforcement officers of this department between points of arrest and initial booking.

III. Procedures

A. Vehicle Inspection

1. At the beginning of each tour of duty, all vehicles regularly used for prisoner transport will be thoroughly inspected to ensure that no weapons or contraband have been left behind or hidden within the vehicle.
2. The vehicle inspection will also determine that the safety screen/glass is properly in place, and that the rear seat door handles and windows have been deactivated.
3. The passenger compartment of the transport vehicle shall be searched prior to and after each transport.

B. Handcuffing/Use of Restraints

1. Officers shall handcuff (double-locked) all prisoners with their hands behind their back.

2. The officer may handcuff the prisoner with his/her hands in front, or use other appropriate and approved restraining devices where the prisoner:
 - a. Is in an obvious state of pregnancy,
 - b. Has a physical handicap, or
 - c. Has injuries that could be aggravated by standard handcuffing procedures.
 - d. During long distant transports and with the approval of a supervisor, the transporting officers may use alternative methods of restraining the detainee such as: belly chain handcuffs or leg irons.
3. Females shall be subject to the same handcuffing and restraint policy as males unless in an obvious state of pregnancy or otherwise exempted by this policy.
4. Officers may use discretion in handcuffing young juveniles but shall use authorized restraints necessary to control unruly or potentially violent juveniles of any age.
5. Prisoners shall not be handcuffed to any part of the vehicle during transport.
6. Additional approved restraint devices may be used to secure a prisoner who violently resists arrest or who manifests mental disorders such that he/she poses a threat to himself or to the public.
7. Officers are prohibited from transporting prisoners who are restrained in a prone position. No prisoner shall be restrained in a face down, "hog tied" position, i.e., hands restrained behind back and tied to legs.

C. Transport

1. Prior to transport, all prisoners shall be thoroughly searched for any weapons or contraband.
 - a. A protective search should be conducted by an officer of the same sex as the prisoner, if possible. Matrons should be utilized for female prisoners when a female officer is not readily available.
 - b. The transporting officer should search the prisoner regardless of searches that may or may not have been conducted by other officers.
2. Females shall not be handcuffed to male arrestees and should normally be separated during transport.
3. Juveniles shall not be transported in the same area of a vehicle with adult prisoners.

4. Special precautions shall be employed when transporting high-risk prisoners. In particular:
 - a. Waist chains should be employed in addition to handcuffs; and
 - b. Rival gang members should not be transported together.
5. Prior to initiating the transport, the officer shall provide the communications center with the following information when possible:
 - a. Arrest location and destination of transport; and
 - b. Odometer readings before and after the transport of a juvenile or prisoner of the opposite sex.
6. The officer should use care when assisting a prisoner into the vehicle for transport.
7. Prisoners shall be transported in a manner that allows for constant visual observation. Seating of officers and prisoners should conform with the following:
 - a. Prisoners shall only be transported in a vehicle equipped with a security barrier.
 - b. Leg restraints shall be used when an officer believes the prisoner has a potential for violent behavior.
 - c. All prisoners shall be secured in the vehicle by proper use of a seat belt.
8. The physical well being of prisoners shall be monitored during transit. Particular attention shall be directed to persons reported or suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol or who have a history or propensity for violence.
 - a. Prisoners who report/display symptoms of serious illness during transport, shall be taken to Broadlawns Medical Center by Emergency Medical Services. An officer shall accompany the prisoner to the medical facility, either in the ambulance or immediately following. Consideration should be given to both the security of the prisoner and medical necessity.
 - b. Escorting officers shall remain with the patient at all times unless relieved by other authorized personnel.
 - c. Potentially violent persons in custody shall be restrained at all times in the treatment facility unless such restraint would interfere with essential treatment.
9. Any wheelchairs, crutches, prosthetic devices, and medication should be transported with, but not in the possession of, the prisoner.
10. Prisoners shall not be left unattended during transport.

11. Officers shall not engage in enforcement activities while transporting prisoners unless failure to act would risk death or serious injury to another. In non-life-threatening yet serious situations, officers should call for back-up assistance and may remain on-hand until such assistance has arrived.
12. Officers transporting prisoners are prohibited from becoming involved in a high-speed pursuit.
13. Officers arriving with a prisoner at the Clive Police Department may utilize the secured sally port entrance to the jail. The prisoner shall not be removed from the transport vehicle until the officer has secured the overhead door to the sally port, and has placed his/her firearm and chemical spray in secured lockup.
14. Officers arriving with a prisoner may use the hallway door located near the temporary holding facility to enter the facility. The prisoner will be taken directly to the temporary holding facility.
15. No restraints shall be removed from the detainee until they are inside the secure facility.
16. If a detainee escapes during transport to the Clive temporary holding facility or a county jail, the escape shall be immediately reported to the communications center together with a complete description of the fugitive, mode and direction of travel, crime, and propensity for violence if known. The shift supervisor and appropriate division shall also be notified.
 - a. The transporting officer will complete a detailed report and forward it to the Chief of Police through the chain of command.
 - b. When an escape is made or attempted while the detainee is in transport, the Police Chief will discuss the policies, procedures and practices with the patrol commander to determine if any action needs to be taken.
17. If a detainee poses any security risks to others or themselves, the entity in which the detainee is being transported shall be notified of the risk prior to transport. If the detainee displays high risk behavior during the transport, the officer shall notify the communication center, so they can notify the entity.
18. Transporting officers who do not book the prisoner should advise the booking officer of any symptoms or reports of physical or mental illness (such as threats of suicide or psychotic behavior) displayed by the prisoner during transport. The transporting officer shall also advise the booking officer if force was used upon the prisoner. The notification should include:
 - a. What force or implement was used;

- b. Any injuries of which the transporting officer is aware; and
- c. Any first aid or other treatment measures that have been undertaken.



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