



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Standard Operating Procedure 450.F17 Safety Cell and Restraint Chair Usage

<i>EFFECTIVE:</i>	<i>REVISED:</i>	<i>RESCINDS:</i>
01 October 1999	22 October 2020	17 February 2017

A. PURPOSE: The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines for the use of the alternative means of restraint in a mental health crisis by using the safety cell or restraint chair.

B. SCOPE: This procedure shall apply to all Corrections members.

C. POLICY: It is the policy of the Leon County Detention Facility to use means, such as the safety cell and as a last resort the restraint chair, to prevent inmates from harming themselves, and others, or causing property damage to the facility [FMJS 11.11].

D. DEFINITIONS:

LESS-LETHAL WEAPON – Weapons that are not fundamentally designed to cause death or great bodily harm. Some examples of Less-lethal weapons include Dart Firing Stun Guns (DSFG), expandable or straight batons, baton round launchers, flashlights, chemical agent sprays, or other weapons of opportunity.

SAFETY CELL – Inmate cells located in E1 of the Detention Facility that is padded with material to safe guard individuals from inflicting harm upon themselves.

E. PROCEDURE:

1. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SAFETY CELL USE

a. Authorization for the use of the safety cell shall be given for the following criteria only:

- 1) Control of inmates exhibiting violent behavior in an attempt to harm themselves.
- 2) For the control of inmates displaying extremely disruptive behavior that may cause great bodily injury to themselves; (e.g. banging head against wall, attempting to use fixtures to cause harm, or hanging themselves on fixtures).
- 3) In lieu of placing an inmate in hard restraints, such as the restraint chair for the criteria listed above.

- b. Under no circumstance will inmates be placed in the safety cell for disciplinary reasons.

2. THE FOLLOWING MAY AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE SAFETY CELL

- 1) Detention Facility Chief;
- 2) Division Captains;
- 3) Watch Commander;
- 4) Physician;
- 5) Physician Assistant;
- 6) Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner; or
- 7) Registered Nurse; or
- 8) Licensed Mental Health Professional

3. DOCUMENTATION FOR SAFETY CELL USE

The reporting package related to the authorization and placement of an inmate in the safety cell shall include the following:

- 1) Obtain Watch Commander's Authorization;
- 2) Complete an Incident Report; unless a Response to Resistance Report is appropriate;
- 3) Complete Direct Observation Initiation form;
- 4) Safety Cell Flow Sheet;
- 5) Video recording.

4. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY CELL USE

- a. Inmates who are exhibiting violent behavior, attempting to harm themselves can be placed in the safety cell for their safety as well as safety of all staff members.
- b. Inmates will not be placed in the cell for disciplinary reasons.
- c. Any time an inmate is placed in the safety cell, the Watch Commander will be immediately notified. The Watch Commander will notify Chain of Command.

- d. Inmates placed in the safety cell shall be under direct observation by correctional personnel.
- e. Medical will conduct an examination of the inmate who is being placed in the safety cell prior to their placement.
- f. Any time an inmate is placed in the safety cell, an Observation Initiation Form and Incident Report will be completed; unless it is determined, a Response To Resistance Report would be appropriate.
- g. The safety cell should be checked prior to and after each use for the presence of contraband, proper sanitation and any damages. The results of the inspection shall be included in the End of Shift Report.
- h. No personal property will be allowed in the safety cell at any time.
- i. Inmates placed in the cell for self-harming behaviors will be provided the designated medical smock.
- j. While an inmate is located in the safety cell, he or she will be offered water every hour in a Styrofoam cup. If an inmate is in the cell during tray pass, food will be served in a Styrofoam tray and water in a Styrofoam cup.
- k. At the time an inmate has been in the cell for six (6) consecutive hours, the on-duty Watch Commander will be notified and he/she will collaborate with Medical /Mental Health to determine if continued time in the safety cell is the most appropriate course of action.
- m. Only the following may authorize removal of an inmate from the safety cell:
 - 1) Detention Facility Chief;
 - 2) Division Captains;
 - 3) Watch Commander;
 - 4) Physician;
 - 5) Physician Assistant;
 - 6) Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner; or
 - 7) Registered Nurse; or
 - 8) Licensed Mental Health Professional.
- o. Removal of an inmate from the safety cell shall be supervised by a sergeant or above, and only after careful review of the original circumstances and the inmate's present condition by medical personnel and/or mental health staff.

- p. Any injuries to the inmate shall be evaluated and treated by medical staff however; all inmates shall be checked by medical upon removal from the safety cell.
- q. After each use, the safety cell shall be sanitized according to cleaning procedures provided and posted in Pod E1.

5. OBSERVATIONS FOR SAFETY CELL

- a. A Fifteen-Minute Observation Log shall be started at the time of placement, and maintained throughout the duration of the time any inmate is in the safety cell.
- b. If an inmate complains of pain or other medical issues requiring medical attention, a supervisor and medical staff will be notified. The inmate will be escorted to medical for an examination to be conducted.
- d. Inmates placed in the safety cell shall be re-evaluated by the initiating supervisor and/ or mental health for removal consideration every three (3) hours. Once the inmate is compliant and is not demonstrating dangerous behaviors any longer the inmate shall be removed from the safety cell.
- e. Inmates have access to restroom receptacle within the safety cell. If behavior permits the housing officer may provide tissue upon request. If the inmate is still displaying behavioral discord a supervisor should be present in the event the inmate needs tissue, water, etc.
- f. All temporary removal of the inmate from the safety cell shall be documented on the fifteen-minute observation log.

MEDICAL- Medical staff will maintain a visual of the inmate while they are housed in the safety cell. Anytime the inmate complains of pain or other medical issues medical staff will document the examination and events accordingly. A flow sheet shall be maintained by medical in order to document all checks.

6. AUTHORIZATION FOR RESTRAINT CHAIR USE

- a. Authorization for use of the restraint chair shall be given for the following criteria only:
 - 1) For the control of inmates displaying dangerous aggressive or disruptive behavior that may or does result in physical harm to them, staff or other inmates.
 - 2) For the control of inmates displaying extremely disruptive behavior that may or does result in facility property damage (e.g. kicking out windows, damaging doors or repeated attempts to do the same).

- b. Under no circumstances shall restraints, including the restraint chair, be applied to an inmate for the purpose of punishment [FCAC 6.13 FMJS 11.11].

7. THE FOLLOWING MAY AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE RESTRAINT CHAIR:

- 1) Detention Facility Chief;
- 2) Division Captains;
- 3) Watch Commander;
- 4) Physician;
- 5) Physician Assistant;
- 6) Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner; or
- 7) Registered Nurse; or
- 8) Licensed Mental Health Professional.

8. DOCUMENTATION FOR RESTRAINT CHAIR USE

- a. The reporting package related to the authorization and placement of an inmate in the Safety Cell shall include the following:
 - 1) Obtain Watch Commander's Authorization;
 - 2) Complete an Incident Report; unless a Response to Resistance Report is appropriate;
 - 3) Complete Direct Observation Initiation form;
 - 4) Restraint Chair Flow Sheet
 - 5) Video recording.

9. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR RESTRAINT CHAIR USE

- a. Mobile restraint chairs shall be kept in the Medical Unit, and may be moved to any location within the facility when it becomes necessary to restrain an inmate in one location, prior to movement to the designated direct observation area in medical. If possible, Medical personnel should be present when an inmate is being placed in the restraint chair however, this is not a requirement.
- b. Whenever possible, inmates will be fully clothed when placed in a restraint chair.

- c. Restrained inmates shall be separated from other inmates and have limited contact with staff.
- d. The person authorizing the use of the restraint chair shall be responsible for seeing that a Response to Resistance Report is completed. If Medical Staff authorized the placement in the restraint chair, the Medical Security Supervisor or Watch Commander shall be responsible for seeing that a Response to Resistance Report is completed. If the inmate was placed in the restraint chair for self protection, he/she shall have a mental health evaluation as soon as possible.
- e. Inmates placed in the restraint chair for self protection from harming themselves shall be evaluated by a Mental Health Professional before removal from the restraint chair. Medical staff may remove an inmate from the restraint chair if it is determined that the restraints jeopardize the inmate's health.
- f. Only those staff trained in the proper use of the restraint chair may apply it. All applications shall be supervised by a Sergeant or higher authority, which also shall be trained in the proper use of the restraint chair.
- g. Personnel required for the proper and safe application of the restraint chair shall include at a minimum:
 - 1) **Compliant Inmate:** Three (3) correctional officers trained in restraint chair use, one of which must be a supervisor for compliant inmates.
 - 2) **Non-Compliant Inmate:** Four (4) correctional officers for Non-compliant inmates, one of which must be a supervisor.
- h. Additional hand and/or ankle restraints, and if necessary, head protection (e.g., helmet or spit mask) may be applied to an inmate placed in the restraint chair.
- i. Less-lethal weapons (as defined) shall not be used on an inmate while confined in a restraint chair.
- j. Inmates placed in the restraint chair shall be under direct observation by correctional personnel.
- k. Persons placed in the restraint chair shall be housed in the designated direct observation area in medical.
- l. Inmates placed in the restraint chair for displaying extremely disruptive behavior that may or does result in facility property damage shall be re-evaluated every four hours for the removal from the restraint chair by the authorizing member or on-duty member as identified (authorized) in this procedure. The originating circumstances and current behavior of the inmate shall be the subject of the re-evaluation. This re-evaluation shall be documented on the restraint chair flow sheet. Medical staff may remove an inmate from the restraint chair if it is determined that the restraints jeopardize the inmate's health.

m. Only the following may authorize removal of an inmate from the restraint chair:

- 1)** Detention Facility Chief;
- 2)** Division Captains;
- 3)** Watch Commander;
- 4)** Physician;
- 5)** Physician Assistant;
- 6)** Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner; or
- 7)** Registered Nurse; or
- 8)** Licensed Mental Health Professional.

n. Removal of an inmate from the restraint chair shall be supervised by a sergeant or above, and only after careful review of the original circumstances and the inmate's present condition by medical personnel and/or mental health staff.

o. Any injuries to the inmate shall be evaluated and treated by medical staff however; all inmates shall be checked by medical upon removal from the restraint chair.

p. After each use, the restraint chair shall be sanitized (wiped down) and all buckles and straps on the restraint chair shall be returned to the ready position in accordance with training. All required restraint equipment shall be kept in the Medical Unit with the chair.

10.OBSERVATIONS FOR RESTRAINT CHAIR USE

a. A Fifteen-Minute Observation Log shall be started at the time of placement, and maintained throughout the duration of the time any inmate is in the restraint chair.

b. If a lack of circulation is observed the discovering member shall notify the Watch Commander and assistance shall be mustered to adjust the restraints. Medical Personnel shall be notified of any circulation problems and shall document them.

c. Inmate complaints of pain, circulation problems or other medical issues requiring partial or total removal of restraints to allow for medical examination shall require a sergeant or higher authority, and at least two other correctional officers shall be present.

d. Compliant inmates shall be removed from the restraint chair every two hours for a period of 20 minutes. An attempt shall be made for Non-compliant inmates to have each limb (arms and legs) freed from restraints to assist in circulation at the

rate of one limb every thirty minutes (for a five minute period). Failed attempts shall be documented on the restraint chair flow sheet. Proper circulation shall be checked by medical staff and documented on the restraint chair flow sheet.

- e. Inmates requesting freedom from restraints to use the restroom facilities or for meals shall be permitted partial or total freedom as determined by a sergeant or higher authority. All such restraint removal shall be properly staffed and may be included as compliance with the aforementioned circulation requirements.
- f. All temporary removal of restraints shall be documented on the fifteen minute observation log and restraint flow sheet.

MEDICAL- Medical staff will check all restraints every two hours to ensure that the inmate has proper circulation, or anytime the inmate complains of pain, circulation problem or other medical issues. A flow sheet shall be maintained by medical in order to document the check for proper circulation.

11.AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY RESTRAINT CHAIR USE

- a. Authorization for use of the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be given for the following criteria only:
 - 1) For the control of inmates displaying dangerous aggressive or disruptive behavior that may or does result in physical harm to them, staff or other inmates.
 - 2) For the control of inmates displaying extremely disruptive behavior that may or does result in facility property damage (e.g. kicking out windows, damage to doors or repeated attempts to do the same).
 - 3) Under no circumstances shall restraints, including the Emergency Restraint Chair, be applied to an inmate for the purpose of punishment.
- b. Only the following may authorize the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair:
 - 1) Detention Facility Chief;
 - 2) Division Captains;
 - 3) Watch Commanders; or
 - 4) Booking/Housing Sergeants

12.GENERAL GUIDELINES EMERGENCY RESTRAINT CHAIR USE

- a. An Emergency Restraint chair shall be kept in booking and housing (unit two) at all times.

- b. If possible, Medical personnel should be present when an inmate is being placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair however, this is not a requirement.
- c. Whenever possible, inmates will be pat searched prior to being placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair and all jewelry removed if possible.
- d. Whenever possible inmates will be fully clothed when placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair.
- e. Restrained inmates shall be separated from other inmates and have limited contact with staff.
- f. The person authorizing the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be responsible for seeing that a Response to Resistance Report is completed before his tour of duty ends.
- g. Only staff trained in the proper use of the Emergency Restraint Chair may apply it. All applications shall be supervised by a sergeant or higher authority, which also shall be trained in the proper use of the Emergency Restraint Chair.
- h. At a minimum, the personnel required for the proper and safe application of the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be four (4) Correctional Officers, one of which must be a supervisor and all must have training in its use.
- i. Additional hand or ankle restraints, and if necessary, head protection (e.g. helmet or spit mask) may be applied to an inmate placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair.
- j. Less-lethal weapons (as defined) shall not be used on an inmate while confined in a restraint chair.
- k. Inmates placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be under Direct Observation by correctional staff at all times.
- l. Once placed in the Emergency Restraint Chair, the inmate shall be re-evaluated within two hours for the removal from the Emergency Restraint Chair. The Booking/Housing Supervisor may authorize discontinuing of the Emergency Restraint Chair if the inmate is calm and compliant with orders. The decision to continue placement in some form of restraints shall be made by the Watch Commander, or higher authority. The originating circumstances and current behavior of the inmate shall be the subject of the re-evaluation. The Emergency Restraint Chair may only be utilized for up to two hours afterwards and then, if necessary some other form of restraints must be used.
- m. Removal of an inmate from the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be supervised by a sergeant or above.

- n. The Restraint Chair Flow Sheet shall be used to document the removal from the Emergency Restraint Chair. The information on the flow sheet shall include the date, time, reason for removal, and authorizing person.
- o. All inmates shall be checked by medical upon removal from the Emergency Restraint Chair. Any injuries to the inmate will be checked and treated by medical staff.
- p. After each use, the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be sanitized (wiped down) and all buckles and straps on the Emergency Restraint Chair shall be returned to the ready position in accordance with training.

13.OBSERVATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RESTRAINT CHAIR USE

- a. The Restraint Chair Flow Sheet shall be started at the time of placement and maintained throughout the duration of the time the inmate is in the Emergency Restraint Chair. Fifteen (15) minute observations shall be documented on the flow sheet.
- b. If a lack of circulation is observed the discovering member shall notify the Booking/Housing Supervisor and assistance shall be mustered to adjust the restraints. Medical Personnel shall be notified of any circulation problems or possible injuries and shall document them.
- c. Inmate complaints of pain, circulation problems, or other medical issues requiring partial or total removal of restraints to allow for medical examination, shall require a sergeant or higher authority and at least two other correctional officers be present.
- d. All temporary removal of restraints shall be documented on the Restraint Chair Flow Sheet.

14.DOCUMENTATION FOR EMERGENCY RESTRAINT CHAIR USE

- a. The reporting package related to the authorization and application of the Emergency Restraint Chair shall include the following:
 - 1) Complete a Response to Resistance Report, if applicable;
 - 2) Incident Report, if applicable;
 - 3) Restraint Chair Flow Sheet;
 - 3) Video recording; and
 - 5) Supervisor's authorization.
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APPROVED: 

DEPARTMENT OF DETENTION ASSISTANT SHERIFF