



GENERAL ORDER

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Chapter: Operations

Section: 403.11

Subject: Use of Force

Topic: Restraint of Pregnant Persons

Accreditation: O.08.01-08.08, O.09.01, 6VAC15-40-970, 6VAC15-40-980, 6VAC15-40-985

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policy and procedures governing the restraint of pregnant females by members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office to restrain pregnant females in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Virginia Department of Corrections.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Handcuffs: A restraint device, either chain link or hinged, applied to the wrist of a subject.
- B. Leg Shackles: A restraint device applied to the ankles to restrict movement of the legs and feet.
- C. Pregnant Female: Women at any stage of pregnancy, labor or delivery, and the post-partum period.
- D. Post-partum Period: The period of recovery immediately following childbirth, miscarriage, or termination of pregnancy. For the purposes of this General Order, the end of the post-partum period is defined by release of the pregnant female from the hospital.
- E. Restraint: Any physical hold (i.e., using one's hands or other body parts to restrain another person) or mechanical device (e.g., flex cuffs, soft restraints, metal handcuffs, waist chains, leg shackles) used to limit the movement of an arrestee's or inmate's body or limbs.
- F. Waist Chain: A device used around the waist of a subject that, with the use of handcuffs, keeps her hands and arms restrained to the waist area in front of her.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Restraint of Pregnant Females

1. When an arrestee or inmate is known to be pregnant, no restraints are to be used unless an individualized Security Risk Analysis is made that the pregnant arrestee or inmate is a flight risk, a danger to herself or others, or the totality of the circumstances creates a serious risk to public safety; such female will be restrained in the least restrictive method necessary for outside transport. This shall include the deployment of additional personnel prior to the approval of any form of physical restraint devices. However, waist chains, leg shackles, and handcuffs behind the body shall not be used. This includes transportation outside the secure perimeter of the Adult Detention Center or Courthouse.
2. A supervisor will approve the use of additional restraints and it shall be documented as a Use of Force indicating the reason for the use of restraints, type of restraints used, and the duration of time the restraints were applied. This report shall be submitted to a supervisor no later than the conclusion of the shift.
3. When an arrestee or inmate is in labor and delivery or postpartum recovery in the hospital, any use of restraints will be approved by a 1st Lieutenant or above under the guidance from the medical authority based on documented security risks.
4. Restraints shall be immediately removed upon the request of any doctor, nurse, or other health professional treating the arrestee or inmate if the restraints present a threat to the health or life of the arrestee/inmate or child.
5. Restraints will not be used:
 - a. About the head or neck of the arrestee/inmate
 - b. In a way that causes undue physical discomfort, inflicts pain, or restricts blood circulation or breathing.
 - c. In any manner inconsistent with the deputy's training.

B. Notification of a Prisoner's Pregnancy

1. Court Services personnel will take reasonable steps to notify transporting agencies including the Adult Detention Center and court transportation units of an inmate's pregnancy status.
2. Whenever an inmate tests positive for pregnancy, medical staff will enter the information into the Offender Management System (OMS) on the inmate's Alert Screen utilizing the Medical Alert code.

3. Whenever a pregnant inmate has to be transported to an off-site referral, medical staff will write "Pregnant" on the outside of the envelope that contains the inmate's referral forms.
4. The Court Services staff member charged with the task of generating the court transportation docket will review the inmate's Alert Screen in the Offender Management System (OMS) for pregnant inmate medical alerts. When a pregnant inmate is discovered on the court list, the staff member will indicate it by writing "PREG" in parentheses next to the inmate's name.
5. Inmate Records Section personnel will review the inmate's Alert Screen in the Offender Management System (OMS) for pregnant inmate medical alerts for inmates scheduled to be transported by another agency. The Records Section personnel will indicate an inmate's pregnancy status on the outside of the Inmate Records transfer packet by writing "Pregnant."