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GENERAL ORDER 70
DETAINEE TRANSPORTATION
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 22, 2024
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PURPOSE: The purpose of this chapter is to establish directives that concern detainee transport. These directives address security and safety issues, those that must be addressed when agency personnel execute the detainee transport function.

70.1 TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

70.1.1 SEARCH OF DETAINEE (LE1)

Transporting Officers are **required to search detainees prior to transport**. When necessary, strip searches or body cavity searches will be conducted at a jail or medical facility in compliance with ORC §2933.32 and General Order 1.2.8.

- When practical, a search of the detainee prior to transport will be conducted by an officer of the same gender as the detainee.

- If an officer of the same gender as the detainee is not available, officers should conduct the search of the opposite gender in the presence of another officer and/or in view of the cruiser camera, unless otherwise impractical.

70.1.2 SEARCH OF THE TRANSPORT VEHICLE (LE1)

Police vehicle inspections shall be performed **as close to the beginning of the shift as possible**.

- Inspections shall ensure the vehicle is in proper working order, properly supplied, seatbelts are in working order, and that the vehicle contains no contraband or unauthorized weapons.

- No police vehicle will be used for transport without being inspected for weapons and contraband.

- Police vehicles used to transport detainees will be **searched prior to and after transporting detainees**.

- Shift supervisors shall take into consideration special transport situations and assign additional staffing or equipment as necessary.

70.1.3 TRANSPORTATION OF DETAINEES IN VEHICLES WITHOUT SAFETY BARRIERS - SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

In the event a detainee is transported in a vehicle which is not equipped with physical barriers designed to minimize unauthorized exit, special precautions must be considered. The officer(s) shall consider safety and escape issues prior to the transport to include the need for:

- A second officer seated with the detainee.

- Placing the detainee in the rear seat, with a second officer sitting across from the detainee in such a manner as the officer's weapon is positioned away from the detainee.

- Seat belting the detainee with restraints. Various restraints are available given special situations.

Unless unusual circumstances exist, officers will normally handcuff detainees prior to transport. Detainees should be handcuffed with their hands behind their backs and the handcuffs double locked given normal circumstances.

70.1.4 TRANSPORT INTERRUPTIONS

A. Officers shall not deviate from transport responsibilities under normal circumstances without supervisor approval. Normally, no stops will be made while transporting from the point of arrest to the booking/processing location.

– Only where there is clear and grave risk to third parties and minimal risk to the detainee will the officer interrupt the transport to render assistance.

B. During long distance transports, care should be taken when stopping for fuel, meals, or for allowing the detainees reasonable opportunities to use toilet facilities.

– If a detainee needs to use toilet facilities during special transport situations, the transporting officer shall attempt to access a local public safety building. If unable to access a public safety building, an alternative site may be utilized.

– Prior to the use of any facilities, the transporting officer shall check the area for weapons and contraband, access to weapons, or means of escape.

C. If a detainee is injured/ill and will require medical treatment and the detainee cannot be summonsed or served with process at a later time (e.g. the detainee is a violent felon or misdemeanor, the detainee poses a threat to himself or others, etc.), the detainee will be transported and accompanied by a sworn member of this agency to a medical facility.

– At the earliest possible time, formal charges shall be made against the detainee in order to release the detainee from our care, custody, and control.

– If the detainee will be admitted to a medical facility for surgery or an extended stay, sufficient security arrangements should be made with the hospital to ensure the security of the detainee. This may include a detail of officers from this agency assigned to security.

– If a medical emergency arises during transport, the transporting officer will seek assistance immediately from the nearest medical facility or EMS provider.

70.1.5 COMMUNICATIONS BY THE DETAINEE

In order to ensure the safety and security of the detainee(s), transporting officers will not normally allow the detainee to communicate with others while being transported.

70.1.6 PROCEDURES FOR OFFICER AT DESTINATION (LE1)

A. Upon arrival at their destination, transporting officers will **secure their firearms**, preferably in a firearms locker provided at the destination. If a locker is not available, officers will secure their firearms in the trunk or most secure location of the transporting vehicle.

B. Once the detainee is inside a secured processing area, temporary holding facility, or holding facility, Officers will use their discretion in determining when to remove restraining devices from detainees. This decision should be based on foreign agency policy, aggression exhibited by the detainee, nature of the offense, and any previous history of the detainee. Officers will remove restraining devices prior to placing

detainees in a holding cell.

C. Upon arrival, documentation of transfer, commitments, releases, or other necessary legal documents or agency mandated papers will be given to the receiving officer at the destination.

D. The transporting officer shall be responsible for advising receiving personnel of any medical and/or security hazard(s) presented by the detainee.

- Medical hazards include, but are not limited to: potential infectious disease risk, claimed or treated injuries, and claimed or treated medical conditions.

- Security risks include, but are not limited to: escape risks, suicide potential, gang affiliation, or potential for violence.

E. The transporting officer shall document the name and/or badge number of the receiving officer on the **Correction Facility Initial Intake Report**.

70.1.7 DETAINEE ESCAPES (LE1)

If a detainee escapes while being transported, the transporting officer will initiate the following actions:

A. Upon detainee escape, the transporting officer will immediately notify the communications center or nearest law enforcement agency, if in another jurisdiction.

- The detainee's name, description, and any other information will be quickly relayed to assist in the apprehension of the detainee.

- The shift supervisor shall be notified of the escape and be kept advised of developments in recovering the escaped detainee.

- The transporting officer or communications center personnel will notify the agencies in whose jurisdiction the escape has occurred and relay all relevant information.

- The detainee's crime victim(s) will be notified, if it is suspected the detainee may attempt to contact or harm them.

B. As soon as practical following the escape, the transporting officer will file a General Offense report detailing the incident with the agency of jurisdiction.

C. Additional personnel shall respond to the scene if necessary, to assist with security and/or search efforts.

- If the detainee is immediately apprehended with or without the assistance from other personnel, at least one additional unit should respond to the scene to assist the transporting officer with security and transportation of the detainee.

- As soon as practical following the escape, the transporting officer will initiate criminal charges for escape and any other applicable violations connected with the escape.

70.1.8 NOTIFICATION OF SECURITY HAZARDS (LE1)

The transporting officer shall request that the receiving agency or court be notified when transporting a detainee that poses a security risk.

- Security risks include, but are not limited to: escape risks, suicide potential, gang affiliation, or potential for violence.
- When transporting individuals who pose a security risk, a second officer will normally accompany the transport to provide additional security.

70.2 RESTRAINING METHODS

70.2.1 RESTRAINING DETAINEES (LE1)

A. Unless extremely unusual circumstances exist, officers will normally handcuff detainees prior to transport. Detainees should be handcuffed with their hands behind their backs and the handcuffs double locked.

- During extended transports, or when security issues exist, if detainees are handcuffed in front, restraint belts and leg irons may be used.
- Officers will only utilize methods and equipment approved by this agency for restraining detainees.
- Detainees will be securely restrained in the transporting vehicle with occupant safety restraining devices.
- The technique of restraining a suspect whereby an individual's arms are handcuffed behind his/her back and attached to his/her feet (i.e. "hog-tying") is strictly prohibited.
- If significant safety or flight issues exist, additional restraints should be utilized (i.e. leg restraints, restraint belts, etc.) and use of additional restraints and reason(s) for use will be documented in reports associated with the incident.
- Officers will not handcuff detainees to any part of the transporting vehicle.

B. When officers encounter mentally disturbed persons (persons exhibiting erratic, violent, or unpredictable behavior) and medical personnel are present, officers will work in conjunction with the medical personnel to determine the most appropriate restraint method.

- If no medical personnel are present, officers will use those restraint devices available to them (i.e. handcuffs, flexcuffs, leg restraints, etc.).
- The use of restraining devices on handicapped, ill or injured detainees will be left to the discretion of the transporting officer, based on the degree of handicap or illness/injury, and the type of offense involved.
- Officers will document the use of additional restraints and reason(s) for use in reports associated with the incident.

C. When transporting more than one detainee in a police cruiser, each detainee may be handcuffed with hands in front, handcuffs double locked, and arms intertwined.

- If available, officers may utilize the detainee transport van to accomplish the transport of multiple detainees (See G.O. 41.1.4).

- When practical, additional officers will be assigned to transporting multiple detainees.

70.3 SPECIAL TRANSPORT SITUATIONS

70.3.1 TRANSPORTING PERSONS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX, SICK, INJURED, OR DISABLED DETAINEES

A. Whenever a female prisoner is transported by a male officer or a male transported by a female officer, the dispatcher must be notified of this circumstance and the following notifications are to be made:

- starting location
- starting odometer reading
- ending odometer reading
- ending location
- It is the responsibility of the dispatcher to acknowledge the officer by responding with the current time after each communication

- Female prisoners will not be transported with male prisoners. When using the transport van, females are to be placed on the opposite side from the males and the partitions closed.

- Juvenile offenders will not be transported with adults.

- The detainee should be made as comfortable as possible, given the length of the trip being made, and secured to the maximum degree as possible with appropriate restraining devices and fastened seat belt.

- If a long distance transport will be involved, e.g. from an outlying county, a prison facility, etc., an officer of the same gender as the detainee should be selected for the transport.

B. If a detainee is sick or injured incident to arrest, the officer will obtain medical assistance as soon as possible.

- Emergency Medical Services personnel will be called when a detainee claims to be sick or injured.

- Officers will rely on the advice of medical personnel in instances of repeat claims of injury or sickness when there is no apparent change in the physical status of the detainee.

- If the detainee is to be transported by squad, an officer will accompany the detainee in the manner requested by EMS personnel.

- If the detainee is not to be transported by a squad (i.e. refuses aid, EMS treat at scene, etc.), the detainee can be transported in the normal manner.

C. If transporting a disabled or handicapped detainee, the transporting officer should attempt to transport

the detainee in a normal transport vehicle.

- If special transportation arrangements need to be made, the transporting officer should contact his/her supervisor.

- If the extent of the disability or handicap prohibits detainee transportation in the normal manner, a supervisor may make arrangements for a vehicle with the appropriate accommodations to handle the transport. The transporting officer will be required to accompany the detainee during this transport.

70.3.2 SECURITY OF ILL/INJURED DETAINEES AT MEDICAL FACILITIES

A. If a detainee is injured/ill and will require medical treatment and the detainee cannot be summonsed or served with process at a later time (e.g. the detainee is a violent felon or misdemeanor, the detainee poses a threat to himself or others, etc.), the detainee will be transported and accompanied by a sworn member of this agency to a medical facility.

- The use of restraining devices on ill/injured detainees will be left to the discretion of the transporting officer based on the 1.) Degree of illness/injury; 2.) Type of offense involved; 3.) Criminal history of the detainee; 4.) Whether the detainee is under the influence of alcohol/drugs and/or 5.) Whether the detainee has a history of violence or combativeness; 6.) Medical facility request.

B. If it appears the detainee is going to be admitted to the medical facility for surgery or an extended stay, the officer will contact a supervisor to determine whether the detainee is to be guarded or summonsed and released. The decision to summons and release or not shall be based on the seriousness of the offense, potential threat to the community, and the probability that the detainee will appear in court.

- Arrangements should be made as soon as possible, to institute formal charges against the detainee in order to release the detainee from our care, custody, and control.

- The supervisor will coordinate security arrangements with the hospital to ensure the security of the detainee. This may include a detail of officers from this agency assigned to security. The supervisor should consider at a minimum:

- What is the type and period of medical treatment?
- Does the detainee pose a degree of risk to medical staff or other patients?
- Does the detainee need to be isolated?
- What types of restraints are necessary?
- What type of security does the medical facility have?
- How many officers are needed?
- Can the detainee escape or does he/she need to be closely monitored?

- If the detainee is admitted into a medical facility, visitors and telephone contact with the detainee should be prohibited.

C. When a detainee is released back to the custody of the officer from the medical facility, written post care instructions shall be obtained and forwarded to the detention facility along with the detainee.

- The detainee should be restrained and searched prior to the transport from the medical facility to the detention facility.

70.3.3 TRANSPORTING DETAINEES IN OTHER SITUATIONS

This agency will not provide transportation of detainees for special situations, such as visiting the critically ill, funerals, or other unusual circumstances.

70.4 TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT

70.4.1 DETAINEE TRANSPORT VEHICLES

Vehicles dedicated to the transportation of detainees will be equipped with a protective safety barrier to separate the driver from the detainee.

70.4.2 TRANSPORT VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS (LE1)

Vehicles dedicated to the transportation of detainees will be modified to minimize opportunities for the detainee to exit from the rear of the vehicle. These vehicles shall be modified so as to prohibit the use of the rear window and rear interior door handles. In addition, these vehicles are equipped with protective screens.

70.5 DOCUMENTATION

70.5.1 DETAINEE DOCUMENTATION

A. Before accepting detainees for transport or conducting a transport, the officer will confirm the identity of the detainee and will obtain necessary documentation.

- Identification may be confirmed by review of records, including case packets, warrant files, licensing information, mug shot information, or other available descriptors.

- If an officer encounters a “John Doe”, the officer will document as much information as possible and forward as a “John Doe” until such time as the person’s identity can be confirmed.

B. When necessary, it shall be the responsibility of the transporting officer to possess the required documentation, such as:

- commitment papers
- fugitive from justice warrants
- extradition papers
- material witness warrants
- personal and Division identification
- any other necessary court ordered documentation, warrants or legal information necessary for the successful transfer of custody of a prisoner.

C. Transporting officers should obtain available documentation on the detainee regarding **security issues**, acts of violence, flight risk, illness/injury, or possibility of suicide.

- The transporting officer shall be responsible for documenting any medical and/or security hazard(s)

and for ensuring the receiving agency or facility is made aware of said hazards.

- Medical hazards include, but are not limited to: potential infectious disease risk, claimed or treated injuries, and claimed or treated medical conditions.

- Security risks include, but are not limited to: escape risks, suicide potential, gang affiliation, or combativeness, potential for violence.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STANDARDS AND POLICIES: General Order 1.2.8, ORC § 2933.32, General Order 26.1.1.

CROSS REFERENCE TO FORMS: