

OVERLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



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TOPIC: PRISONER TRANSFERS & RESTRAINTS
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[CALEA references: see below](#)

I. PURPOSE

To ensure the safety and security of prisoners, officers, and the public, officers will exercise reasonable care and follow established Department guidelines when using handcuffs, other restraint devices, maintaining custody, or while transporting prisoners.

II. PROCEDURE

A. USE OF HANDCUFFS [70.2.1, 70.1.6\(B\)](#)

Officers will exercise good judgment during all prisoner transports. Officer will use handcuffs when transporting prisoners. A supervisor will be contacted when unusual restraint or handcuff situations are encountered. Unless otherwise approved by a supervisor, during all prisoner contacts and transports officers will do the following:

- Place handcuffs on all prisoners to include those taken into protective custody for mental illness or intoxication.
- Handcuff the prisoner behind the back on the skin, above the wrist, tight enough to fit snugly, but not so tight to cause loss of blood-circulation. Do not place them over clothing or other impediments.
- Use a "belly chain" or restraint belt on prisoners handcuffed in the front.
- Will ensure handcuffs are worn until the prisoner is inside a detention facility.
- Will only remove handcuffs from prisoners who have been transported to TRCC for investigative purposes with supervisory approval once inside. Leg restraints should be applied prior to the removal of handcuffs unless supervisory approval has been given.

If supervisory approval is given to transport a prisoner without handcuffs or handcuffed in front with no restraint belt or belly chain, such transport will be conducted by at least two (2) officers. They will transport the prisoner in a vehicle equipped with shields or in the Prisoner Transport (PT) Van and will be the only prisoner transported.

Officers may use flex cuffs if no handcuffs are available to temporarily restrain a prisoner. The flex cuffs will be replaced as soon as handcuffs are available.

Officers will address any complaints or reports of tightness or loss of blood circulation associated with the use of handcuffs or other restraints and make adjustments, if appropriate as soon as it is safe to do so.

B. RESTRAINT DISTRESS & POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA [70.2.1](#)

In order to minimize incidents of restraint distress or positional asphyxia, officers will:

- Not use hobbles or devices which connect or tether a prisoner's feet and hands together.
- Avoid application of excessive weight to a prisoner's back
- Remove prisoners from prone positions and turn them on their side or put them in an upright sitting position.

Transporting any prisoner in a face-down or prone position will be a rare occurrence; however, if it becomes necessary to do so, a second officer will be designated to monitor the prisoner's safety and request medical care if there are any signs of:

- Medical distress
- Inactivity and or lack of responsiveness
- Breathing difficulties.

Emergency medical assistance should be summoned immediately when a restrained prisoner exhibits any of the following visible signs:

- Unexplained inactivity
- Blocked airways or breathing difficulties
- Convulsions or tremors
- Loss of consciousness or lack of responsiveness
- Other signs of medical distress
- Prisoner requesting medical assistance

C. USE OF LEG RESTRAINTS [70.2.1](#)

In order to protect themselves and police equipment, officers are authorized to use leg restraints when transporting prisoners who are combative or are escape-risks.

If prisoners complain of tight leg restraints or loss of blood circulation, the officer will check and make adjustments if necessary.

Prisoners transported to TRCC for additional investigative follow-up will have leg restraints applied upon entering the interview rooms if not already applied. Any exceptions will require supervisory approval. Leg restraints will be available in the lobby for immediate access and use.

D. WRAP RESTRAINTS [70.2.1](#)

Officers who have successfully completed an OPPD approved WRAP training course are the only ones authorized to use the WRAP. The WRAP will only be used as a temporary restraining device and should never be considered to be escape proof.

Use of the WRAP will be limited to field or Booking Area incidents where a prisoner has displayed, or is reasonably anticipated to display, combative behavior or violent actions. Officers will not leave WRAP-restrained prisoners unattended.

Once the WRAP is applied, prisoners will be repositioned on their side or in a sitting position as recommended above in Section II-B 2; Restraint Distress & Positional Asphyxia and will be closely monitored.

USE OF PROTECTIVE HEAD GUARD/FACE SHIELD

Persons restrained in the WRAP restraint will also have a Department approved and supplied head guard/face shield placed on their head by officer(s) unless otherwise directed by a supervisor or medical considerations would preclude using the device.

The head guard/face shield may be placed on individuals who are spitting, regardless of whether or not the WRAP is applied.

The head guard will be removed:

- When the WRAP is removed
- With supervisory approval
- With direction of medical personnel
- When exigent circumstances exist

E. REQUIRED POLICE REPORTS [70.1.6\(E\)](#)

Officers will document all use of handcuffs or other restraints, as well as all observations and actions taken in response to any complaints of soreness, injury, tightness, or loss of blood circulation associated with use of such restraints. Additionally, officers will document in their report the transfer of prisoner custody.

F. PRISONER TRANSPORTS [70.1.1](#), [70.1.2](#), [70.1.6\(A\)\(C\)\(D\)](#)

Officers will use good judgment during prisoner transports. A supervisor will be contacted when unusual transport situations are encountered. During prisoner contacts and transports officers will conduct a thorough search of prisoners every time custody is exchanged and ensure searches are conducted by officers of the same gender when possible. If an opposite gender search is necessary it will be done in compliance with [SOP 2290, Stop & Frisk](#). Prisoner-inventory searches will be conducted as outlined in [SOP 2030, Arrest & Detention](#).

Prisoners must be routinely monitored to ensure their security is maintained and escape opportunities are minimized.

Upon taking custody of a prisoner from or transferring custody to another jurisdiction, officers will ensure necessary documents and prisoner property are exchanged, and any information related to actual or potential escape risks, suicide risks, illnesses, or health hazards are passed along. (C)(D)

Upon transporting a prisoner to an OPPD booking facility will secure firearm(s) and weapons in a designated lock box prior to entering the booking area per [SOP 2030, Arrest and Detention](#). Officers will only enter the booking area with weapons in the case of an emergency. Once the emergency has been resolved, Officer will secure firearm(s) and weapons immediately. (A)

When transporting prisoners to Municipal Court: [70.1.6\(B\)](#), [70.1.8](#)

- Maintain handcuffs until a transfer to a Court Security Officer is completed.
- If a security risk exists, contact a Court Security Officer in advance to discuss use of restraining devices and/or additional security in Court.

Segregate and make special transport arrangements if prisoners:

- Are antagonistic or violent toward each other
- Have been combative
- Are intoxicated
- Are not all minor or not all adults
- Are of the opposite sex, unless otherwise provided in this policy.

Transport vehicles occupied by prisoners will not:

- Be used to transport non-arrested passengers.
- Respond to life-threatening incidents, serious physical injuries, or other officer emergencies while a prisoner is in custody. Exceptions may include:
 - The prisoner is not endangered
 - First aid or other assistance is immediately required
 - Dispatch is contacted, so additional officers can be dispatched to relieve the officer or to complete the prisoner transfer.

Officers will: [70.1.2](#), [70.1.6](#)

- Ensure transport vehicles are inspected at the start of each shift; and, before and after each prisoner or passenger transport.
- Seat belt prisoners other than those exempted by [KSA 8-2503](#).
- If it is anticipated a prisoner will become disorderly during a transport, a

second officer should be assigned to the transport to monitor the prisoner.

G. PRISONER TRANSPORT (PT) VAN TRANSPORTS

A designated sergeant be responsible for maintaining the PT Van and ensure its equipment inventory is properly stocked.

Multiple prisoners, if all are adults or all are juveniles, may be transported simultaneously in the PT Van. Males and females will be seated on separate vehicle benches. Non-violent, non-intoxicated, non-antagonistic, non-combative prisoners of the same sex may be seated on the same bench seat. If the PT Van is occupied by prisoners, it will not be used to transport non-arrested passengers.

H. PATROL VEHICLE TRANSPORTS

Unless otherwise approved by a supervisor, officers will seat prisoners in the back seat of vehicles equipped with prisoner shields.

If two (2) or more prisoners are being transported by one officer:

- Male and female prisoners will be segregated by seating the female in the front seat and the male in the back seat.
- Maintain the partition's sliding window in the closed position, unless conversation with the prisoner in the back seat is necessary.

Officers should consider using the PT Van to transport unruly or combative prisoners. Unless approved by a supervisor, never use a vehicle without a prisoner shield or the PT Van, however if approved will:

- With one (1) officer, seat the prisoner in the right front vehicle seat.
- With two (2) officers, seat the prisoner in the right front and the second officer behind the prisoner
- With two (2) officers and two (2) prisoners, seat one (1) prisoner in the right front, the other prisoner behind the driver, and the second officer behind the prisoner in the front seat.

I. DISTRICT COURT & OUT-OF-COUNTY TRANSPORTS [70.1.6 \(A\)](#)

Officers transporting prisoners to the JO CO Jail to be held on District Court charges or for return to an outside agency's jurisdiction, will:

- Transport prisoners to the JO CO Jail Intake for booking.
- Will secure their firearm(s) and weapons in the designated lock box prior to entering the JO CO Jail intake area for booking.
- Initial arresting officers will complete the report as soon as practical.

J. MEDICAL TRANSPORTS [70.1.6](#)

When an arrested person requires medical attention, officers will arrange for such and notify their supervisor.

- If injuries are minor, prisoners may be transported to the hospital in a patrol

vehicle.

- If injuries are serious an ambulance will be requested and a supervisor will be notified.
- An officer will accompany ambulance personnel during the transport.
- If a request is made to transport a sick or injured prisoner from the detention facilities to medical facilities for non-emergency treatment, the Watch Commander or a designee will decide if the officer or an ambulance will make the transport.
- Unless otherwise approved by a supervisor, sick or injured prisoners will be handcuffed during transport.

K. PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRANSPORTS 70.1.6 (A)(B)

Unless otherwise approved by a supervisor, at least two (2) officers will transport suspected mentally ill persons in a patrol vehicle with a shield or the PT Van.

Officers will retain custody of their weapons during transports and while at the receiving institution. Restraints will only be removed after the receiving institution takes custody of the prisoner.

L. PRISONER SECURITY AT MEDICAL FACILITIES 70.1.6(B)

Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, officers will allow emergency medical necessity to prevail in emergency cases; however, reasonable precautions will be taken to limit risk of escape. During routine and non-emergency medical treatment, officers will:

- Cooperate with health care professionals
- Prevent escapes and ensure public safety
- Isolate prisoners from other patients as much as practicable
- Remove restraints only when requested to do so by attending health professionals
- Maintain reasonable security over the prisoner during the medical examination, treatment and assessment process.

M. DISABLED PRISONER TRANSPORTS

Officers transporting disabled prisoners will consider the prisoner's:

- Mobility
- Any special needs
- Seriousness of the disability
- Offense
- Risk of violence
- Cooperativeness
- Safety and security of both the disabled prisoner and officers.

Proper care will be given when placing disabled prisoners into or removing them from transport vehicles. If the person has a cane, wheelchair, crutches, etc. the officer will take custody of the item in order to prevent its use as a weapon. The items may be taken to Booking and returned to the person if it is safe to do so.

Close monitoring will be given to prisoners to ensure their mobility and balance needs are met. If restraint methods are used, officer(s) will make sure they are effective, humane and protect the safety of the prisoner.

N. PRISONER ESCAPES [70.1.7\(A\)\(B\)\(C\)](#)

If a prisoner escapes, involved officers will immediately notify Dispatch and:

- Provide a suspect description; direction of travel and known weapons.
- Request notification of a supervisor and the Watch Commander, or designee.
- Provide appropriate updates as needed.

Officers from whom the prisoner has escaped will only initiate an active search for the prisoner if:

- No other prisoner(s) remain in his/her custody.
- A second officer is on-scene to take custody of the prisoner.
- Officers will submit detailed reports concerning any escape from custody.

O. PRISONER TRANSPORTS TO INVESTIGATIONS AT TRCC [70.2.1](#)

The TRCC interview rooms are located within a secure non-public area, but are not intended or equipped to be used as a detention cell. If a detective requests, and with supervisory approval, prisoners may be transported to TRCC for interview purposes. Supervisors should consider what type of investigative activity is occurring within the interview area before approving the request.

To ensure prisoner security at this facility, additional guidelines have been established to assist with prisoner control and officer safety. [70.1.6\(A\)](#)

- Prisoners will be restrained per the additional guidelines in section C. *Use of Leg Restraints* unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.
- Prisoners demonstrating a continued propensity toward being combative or a continued flight risk should be taken to a Booking area or directly to the Johnson County Detention Center for processing and interview.
- Officers will maintain custody of their firearms and weapons while at TRCC with prisoners.
- Prisoners, or potential suspects will not be locked in a TRCC interview room, nor will the interview room be used as a holding cell or a temporary detention room.
- Prisoners placed in an interview room are to be monitored directly in person. At no time are prisoners to be left unmonitored in the interview rooms without at least one officer, detective, or supervisor stationed inside.
- In the event of a fire or other emergency in the building, the monitoring officer will be responsible for removing prisoners from interview rooms.

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CALEA references:

70.1.1

70.1.2

70.1.6(A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

70.1.7(A)(B)(C)

70.1.8

70.2.1