



# PARADISE VALLEY

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### GENERAL ORDERS

#### **Detainee Transportation**

**Order Number**

70

**Inception Date**

08-05-2015

**Revised Date**

09-02-2025

### **70 Detainee Transport**

- A. Each prisoner being transported must be positively identified as the person who is to be moved. This can be accomplished by confirming with the arresting officer, using any identification documents in the prisoner's property, or any available records including photographs, warrants, fingerprint identification, etc.
- B. At the beginning of the shift, an officer shall examine any vehicle assigned to the officer to ensure it is free from contraband and weapons. If an officer is using a vehicle for transport that is not assigned to the officer, the vehicle shall be searched prior to transport. Every vehicle shall be searched after a prisoner transport to determine if weapons or contraband were placed there by the prisoner during transport. Generally, a prisoner shall not be placed in a police vehicle until the prisoner and the vehicle have been searched. The search of the prisoner shall be thorough. If available, an officer of the same gender as the prisoner should conduct the search. If none is available another officer should stand by as a witness prior to searching a prisoner of the opposite gender. As a last resort, pat downs should be conducted in view of an activated A/V device.
- C. All possessions shall be removed from the prisoner, they shall be searched for weapons, evidence and contraband, and any found items will be secured in the patrol vehicle prior to transport.
- D. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, detainees who are disabled and use an assistive device (walker, wheelchair, mobile chair, etc.) must be reasonably accommodated during transport. Officers should inquire as to what assistance the individual needs and assist in providing that assistance. If necessary, alternative transport may need to be arranged. Officers should be careful not to damage the assistive device.
- E. In patrol vehicles, prisoners will be placed in the right rear passenger seat of a caged unit when being transported by only one officer. If a prisoner is being transported by two officers in a caged unit, the second officer shall be seated in the front passenger seat and the prisoner shall be placed behind the driver to enable the second officer passenger to easily monitor the prisoner. When a single officer is transporting two prisoners, a caged patrol vehicle shall be used with the prisoners located in the rear of the transport unit. For uncaged investigations vehicles, the suspect may either be transported in the front passenger seat with an additional officer riding in the back-seat area to observe the suspect, otherwise, two officers will be located in the front seat with the suspect in the backseat compartment directly behind the front passenger seat. All prisoners will be handcuffed with hands behind their back and seat belted when being transported. Officers may use approved alternative means of restraint, such as leg restraint straps, when necessary (e.g., under the influence of alcohol or drugs; illness; disruptive behavior).



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- F. Any vehicle used primarily for transporting prisoners, including caged prisoner transport vans, must have the driver separated from the prisoner by a safety barrier. Whenever possible, prisoners should be transported to the police station in transport vehicles or using a patrol vehicle or prisoner transport van. These vehicles have cages, power deactivated to the door and window locks, and other modification to keep the prisoner safe and prevent escape. When transporting a prisoner to the jail or juvenile detention facility, a caged patrol car or caged prisoner transport van shall be used.
- G. Officers shall keep all weapons guarded and seat the prisoner to allow the officer to monitor the prisoner's activities during transport. The prisoner shall not be allowed to make telephone calls or otherwise communicate with anyone except officers during transport.
- H. Officers should not stop to engage in other law enforcement activities when transporting a prisoner unless the risk to third parties is clear and the risk to the prisoner is minimal. Instead, the officer shall notify Communications of any on-sight activity observed by the officer during transport.
- I. Upon arrival at their destination, officers shall follow security protocols established by the facility, complete and deliver all required paperwork and notify detention staff or receiving personnel of any special circumstances (medical conditions, suicidal, security hazards, escape risk etc.) related to the prisoner. If documentation is not received confirming the transfer of custody, the employee shall confirm the receiving official's name in a supplement to the report covering the reason the person is in custody.
- J. If the escape of a prisoner occurs, the transporting officer shall notify Communications immediately and advise of last known direction, identification, and description of the escapee, and whether or not the escapee is armed. The shift supervisor shall be notified of the situation, and a search of the area shall be initiated. After notification has been made, the on-duty supervisor may request other resources such as a canine unit. If the escape occurs in another jurisdiction, Communications shall contact the other agency to seek their assistance. The officer's supervisor shall be responsible for reviewing the officer's report detailing the circumstances surrounding the escape, and if appropriate, recommending measures to prevent reoccurrence.
- K. When transporting prisoners to court, it shall be the transporting officer's responsibility to escort and maintain close proximity with the prisoner(s) unless ordered otherwise by the judge. In any case, the transporting officer shall maintain visual contact with the prisoner(s). The transporting



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officer shall notify the judge and the on-duty supervisor, in advance, if the prisoner is considered to be a security risk. The judge and the on-duty supervisor may then direct the use of additional restraining devices and/or request additional officers.