


STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 01/15//2024
	Title: Prisoner Transportation	No. 11.9
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 11/25/2022
	Reference: Previous 04/19/23 Tier 1 - 1.9.2, 1.9.3, 1.9.4,1.9.5, 1.9.8, 1.9.9, 1.9.13, 1.9.14, 1.9.15, 1.9.16. Tier 2 – 2.7.1, 2.7.2, 2.7.2, 2.7.4, 2.7.5	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the transportation of prisoners.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to maintain security and to provide for the safety of its prisoners, as well as provide for the security and safety of the public and the officers involved in transportation of prisoners.

PROCEDURE:

Transportation

The transporting officer is responsible for the safety and custody of the prisoner being transported. Prior to and after transporting a prisoner the officer will conduct a search of the prisoner and the transporting vehicle for weapons and/or contraband.

Prisoners should normally be searched by an officer of the same sex as the prisoner.

It should never be assumed by the officer that someone else has searched the prisoner. Prisoners shall be searched each time they come into the transporting officer's custody.

Prisoners shall be searched by officers of the same sex. Female prisoners shall be searched by female officers. Male prisoners shall be searched by male officers.

To ensure officer and public safety and/or to protect the prisoner from harming themselves conditions may dictate the need for a prisoner to be searched by an officer of the opposite sex. Under those conditions the officer will use minimal physical contact.

In effecting the search of a transgender individual, the search ideally and where possible should be conducted of an officer of the sex who the transgender individual expresses. If the transgender individual presents feminine expression, the search shall be conducted by a female officer. If the individual presents masculine expression, the search shall be conducted by a male officer.

If searching officers are uncertain as to the subjects' gender expression, then officers will respectfully and in a professional manner ask the individual as to what is their preference with respect to the sex of the searching officer.

At least two officers shall be present for searches when possible.

Officers transporting prisoners of the opposite sex will advise dispatch of their starting location, cruiser odometer mileage reading prior to transport and upon arrival at headquarters or other assigned destination.

Prisoners requiring transportation from other towns or agencies will normally be transported by two officers. In situations where manpower does not permit this, but the shift supervisor determines that two officers should be sent to retrieve the prisoner, pick up may be delayed until this can be arranged. One officer should not normally be sent to pick up a prisoner of the opposite sex or to make pick ups outside of radio range.

Prisoner exchange will take place at Police Headquarters. Prisoners are not to be transferred between agencies on the highway or in unsecured areas without permission of the shift commanding officer.

Marked cruisers equipped with a security screen and a modified rear passenger compartment will normally be used for prisoner transportation. Transporting Officers will sit in the front seat. The security screen prevents the prisoner from having access to the driver's compartment of the vehicle. Communication between the front and rear compartments should not be impaired to the point that precludes conversation.

In the event that an unmarked vehicle is used to transport a prisoner the following procedures shall be utilized:

Two Officer Transport -The prisoner will be handcuffed behind the back and placed in the right rear seat of the vehicle. One officer will sit in the left rear seat. The car seat belts shall be utilized.

One Officer Transport -Should be avoided if possible. If utilized, the prisoner will be handcuffed behind the back and secured in the right front passenger seat with the car seat belt.

All prisoners while being transported in a department vehicle will normally have their arms restrained behind their back using department authorized handcuffs or Flex Cuffs, and seat belted in. Exceptions may be allowed based on physical handicaps, age, medical condition, length of transport, or other conditions deemed appropriate by the transporting officer. Prisoners should not be handcuffed to any part of the vehicle (i.e. door post, etc.)

Restraints

Handcuffs - Department approved - should be double locked when applied.

Waist Belts - Restrict movement of the prisoner's arms - buckle or VELCRO in back, cuffs through hook in front or back.

Leg Restraints - Restrict the movement of the prisoner's feet and legs.

Flex Cuffs - Stored in the Desk Sergeant's office.

Prisoners will not be allowed to communicate with anyone during transport. Family members, friends, and attorneys will not be permitted to accompany a prisoner nor shall the transport be interrupted to allow communication of the prisoner to any other person.

All prisoners, especially those from other agencies and detention facilities, will be positively identified utilizing photo identification. It is important that when the transporting officer makes a pickup of a prisoner that he/she is sure that the right prisoner is transported. The officers will also make notation of the names of officers from other agencies that they take custody of the prisoner from in their report. The same applies when a prisoner's custody is transferred to another law enforcement agency from this department's custody.

Transporting officers will not lose sight of prisoners. In the event an emergency situation during the transport requires the use of a toilet facility it will be the responsibility of the transporting officers to maintain the security and safety of the prisoners.

If the arrestee needs to use restroom facilities, both officers shall escort the arrestee to the restroom:

- One officer should thoroughly search the facility (including inside the toilet's water tank) first before the arrestee and second officer enter.
- The officer should select the stall used by the arrestee.
- Handcuffs may be removed just prior to the arrestee entering the stall and be reattached immediately after use.
- When possible, the officers should use an unoccupied restroom.

If during transport of a prisoner a meal will be required the selection of the place where the meal is to be taken will be done randomly.

The taking of meals during transport of an arrestee is permissible only when the transport extends more than three (3) hours:

- There must be two transporting officers before a meal or rest stop is allowed.
- The stopping place must be chosen at random and should be a public area that is not crowded.
- One officer should purchase food while the second officer remains with the arrestee and vehicle.
- Meals should be consumed in the vehicle.
- One officer at a time should eat while the other officer remains alert and on guard. The arrestee's hands may be freed for the purpose of eating.

Special situations such as funerals, medical visits, etc. will be handled only pursuant to court order.

Normally, no stops will be made while transporting from the point of arrest to the booking/processing location.

Responding To Calls While Transporting Prisoners

The primary duty of the transporting officer is the safe delivery of the prisoner in his care. While transporting prisoners the officer will stop and render assistance only in emergency situations where there is a clear risk of death or injury to a third party:

Advise the supervisor and dispatch prior to stopping to render assistance. Remain on the scene until relieved by another unit. Transporting officers that encounter a non-emergency situation (i.e. disabled motor vehicle) will report the incident via radio to headquarters.

The subsequent responding officers will explain to the victim why the transport officer did not stop.

Officers should take caution of potential diversionary incidents whether or not instigated by persons attempting to free the prisoner, may divert the transport officer and place the prisoner in jeopardy or enhance chances for escape.

Special Transportation Situations

Handicapped Prisoners

Restraint devices will be used only when absolutely necessary to prevent escape or ensure the safety of the officer and/or prisoner. The condition of the prisoner will determine the suitable vehicle for transportation (cruiser, prisoner van or ambulance.)

Prisoners whose handicap requires medical treatment during transport will be transported via ambulance.

Emotionally Disturbed Prisoners

The prisoner will be restrained to the degree necessary for the safety of the prisoner and/or officer. Under most conditions the prisoner will be transported in an ambulance to a medical facility for evaluation.

Extradition Transport Team

Prisoners transported to headquarters by the State Extradition Team will normally be coordinated and processed by the Detective Division. When there is no detective on duty a patrol officer will sign for the prisoner and retain one copy of the 'arrest warrant' or 'take into custody form' to be forwarded to the Desk Sergeant and Detective Bureau.

Transporting Prisoners to GA2

The Court Liaison Officer will have the primary duty of transporting prisoners to GA2. If the Court Liaison Officer is unavailable the Patrol Supervisor will assign the transportation duties to another officer(s)

Duties of the Transporting Officer

- Transporting officer(s) will adhere to the "Transportation" procedures listed above.
- Transporting officer(s) will be responsible for returning personal property and obtaining receipt signatures for the property of prisoners being transported to court with the exception of weapons, contraband and/or prescription drugs.

Arrival at GA2

- Escort the prisoners through the sally port area of the court building and turn them over to the receiving officers/marshals. The officers/marshals will normally remove restraining devices.
- Turn over any prisoner property retained by the department.
- Notify the appropriate personnel when a prisoner to be transported to court is considered a security hazard, a potential risk of escape, medical risk as well as any other special information (i.e. violent or suicidal.) The above information will be documented in the respective case file.
- The officer will be responsible for the delivery of the daily transmittals and copies of all cases and related paperwork to the court clerk, including Uniform Arrest Report, misdemeanor summons, properly executed arrest warrant (if applicable), notarized incident reports (for warrantless arrests), fingerprint cards (when provided), and bond money.
- Return signed transmittals, warrants and subpoenas to the police department for proper distribution.

Transporting Prisoners to Correctional Facilities

The department will not transport prisoners directly to a correctional facility without an order from the court. The transporting officer will adhere to the “transportation” procedures established in this order regarding prisoner transportation.

The transporting officer will secure his/her weapon in the trunk of the cruiser prior to escorting the prisoner into the facility. Restraining devices will be removed at the direction of the receiving correctional officer.

The transporting officer will obtain a copy of the court order signed by the receiving correctional officer and return such copy to the department if applicable.

The transporting officer will carry all documentation relative to the arrestee’s identification, destination, escape or suicidal tendencies, or unusual medical conditions; such documentation shall be transferred to the receiving agency/facility.

If there are any potential medical and/or security risks regarding the arrestee, the transporting officer should advise the receiving agency or court of such information. Information may include:

- 1) Illness or medical condition.
- 2) Suicidal or violent tendencies.
- 3) Potential risk of escape

At the completion of the arrestee transfer, the transporting officer shall document in an incident report the transfer of custody. The incident report should include:

- 1) Name of receiving agency.

2) Name of receiving personnel.

3) Arrestee's name and date of birth.

Transporting Prisoners to Medical Facilities

In the event that a prisoner becomes sick or is injured incidental to an arrest and requires treatment at a medical facility the following procedures shall be followed.

The transporting officer will adhere to the "transportation" procedures of this order regarding prisoner transportation. In most cases transportation will be made by ambulance with an officer riding with the prisoner. While at the medical facility the prisoner will be restrained (handcuffed/shackled) to the degree necessary for the safety of the prisoner and/or officer unless otherwise ordered by a physician.

The Officer assigned to prisoner security will conduct a search of the prisoner/patient and his/her belongings upon admission and after each visit. The door to the prisoner's room is to remain open at all times except when medical or nursing procedures are being performed. The Officer assigned will supervise the prisoner during all medical/nursing procedures.

The officer assigned to prisoner security will be positioned just inside the doorway of the prisoner's room and in direct visual contact with the prisoner.

The patrol supervisor will conduct an inspection of the hospital security detail at least once per shift and document conditions. Prisoners who are transported to the hospital will either be bonded out from the hospital or monitored on a continual basis until released from the hospital and returned to headquarters.

If a prisoner must be admitted to the hospital and there is court set bond the prisoner will be monitored on a continual basis until a judge is contacted to eliminate the bond and the prisoner can be released on a written promise to appear (PTA) or a non-surety bond, or the prisoner can be transported to a secure correctional facility.

Escape of a Prisoner During Transport

In the event of a prisoner escape the primary objective will be to recapture the prisoner and prevent injury to the public, property, or police officers.

Duties of the Transporting Officer

If within radio communication distance notify the dispatcher of the escape via the police radio. Make an immediate attempt to recapture the prisoner. If immediate recapture is not possible, it is more prudent to await the assistance of other police officers.

If outside radio communications distance the transporting officers should notify the nearest local police authority and as soon as possible make a telephone report of the escape to the on-duty Shift Commander.

If the escape takes place within Stratford, the dispatcher will advise all police units of the escape, including the name and physical description of the escapee and the nature of the charges (misdemeanor, felony, violent felony, etc.) and any information as to where the escapee may be heading.

If the escapee is outside of town limits the transporting officer shall follow the directions of the police agency having jurisdiction in the area. Depending on the distance from the town limits, the on-duty shift supervisor may detail an investigator or other officers to respond to the location of the escape to provide assistance in the search to recapture the escapee.

The transporting Officer shall prepare a report of the escape assigning the incident a separate case number.

If the escapee is not recaptured within the normal tour of duty of the transporting officer this officer shall immediately prepare an application for an arrest warrant on the charge of escape. The application for the warrant will be forwarded to the court by the Court Liaison Officer as soon as possible for issuance of an arrest warrant. This procedure does not apply if the escape took place outside of the boundaries of the State of Connecticut.