

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)			
	Chapter No./Name	09 – Support Enforcement Services (SES)			
	Part No./Name	N. Arrest			
	Section No./Name	N-300 Making an Arrest			
	Document No./Name	N-330 Handcuffs			
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One of the most important elements of arrest is the use of handcuffs. Handcuffs are the most important restraining devices available. They are small, easily carried and provide a great measure of safety when properly used. However, they can be used by arrested persons as a weapon that can be turned on the * officer ** if not properly used. A handcuffed prisoner is by no means immobilized. Do not drop your guard because your prisoner is handcuffed properly.

Prisoners shall be handcuffed. The handcuffs shall be placed on the subject before the search is conducted.

N-332 Types of Handcuffs

Handcuffs are generally recognized as the most dependable restraining devices. The most effective are the double-locking handcuffs. They are easily carried and are more difficult to pick. Two principal types of double-locking handcuffs are normally used. One model is double-locked by inserting the key in the lock and then turning it counter-clockwise. The other type is double-locked by inserting a small tip at the top of the key into a small hole in the handcuff stem. This type of handcuff is unlocked by turning the key counter-clockwise until the double-lock is released. The key is then turned clockwise to disengage the handcuff jaw.

Handcuffs shall always be double-locked whenever they are used. This precaution prevents or reduces the possibility of picking or slipping the locking mechanism. Cuffs which are not double-locked can be tightened by the prisoner as a way of luring the specialist into adjusting them. It is during such close contacts that prisoners attack. Also, if the prisoner struggles, the cuffs may tighten and cut into his wrists, thus inflicting injuries.

N-333 Procedures for Handcuffing a Prisoner

It is mandatory that all prisoners be handcuffed when arrested. Prisoners shall not be handcuffed with hands to the front unless a restraint belt is used. This handcuff application is most appropriate for transporting a prisoner from one place of detention to another.

Never handcuff a prisoner to yourself and never handcuff a prisoner to a fixed object.

Always exercise extreme caution in handcuffing a prisoner in an arrest situation and always use correct handcuffing techniques with hand behind his back.

N-334 Care of Handcuffs

Handcuffs are carried in a variety of ways (pockets, special pouches, belt, glove compartment). They may become exposed to the elements, dirt, lint, or other conditions, which may reduce their efficiency or make them inoperative. Handcuffs must be checked frequently, cleaned and lubricated to prevent any malfunction in times of emergency.