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| <b>YORK-POQUOSON SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b>             | <b>GENERAL ORDERS</b>                            |
| <b>SUBJECT: Prisoner Restraints</b>               | <b>NUMBER: GO 2-7</b>                            |
| <b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> August 13, 2024            | <b>LAST MODIFIED DATE:</b> August 13, 2024       |
| <b>AMENDS/SUPERSEDES:</b> GO 2-7, August 16, 2023 | <b>APPROVED:</b> <u>R.G. Montfort</u><br>Sheriff |
| <b>VLEPSC:</b> OPR.08.01, OPR.08.05, OPR.09.01    |  |

## **INDEX WORDS**

Ankle shackles (leg irons)  
Body belt  
Handcuffs  
Investigative detention  
Positional asphyxia  
Restraints

## **POLICY**

A Deputy Sheriff's responsibility for the safe custody of prisoners permits some discretion in the use of handcuffs and restraining devices. The Sheriff requires deputies to observe for their own safety, and that of the people they transport by carefully restraining prisoners (exception: some juveniles see below) who must be taken to a jail or other locations.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the use of handcuffs and other restraining devices. Only those devices listed in this directive are authorized for use.

## **PROCEDURES**

- Arrested Persons
  - Deputies shall handcuff or restrain all arrested adults.
  - The nature of the restraint chosen to subdue a suspect and the related method of transporting a suspect to jail or to court depends on the level of threat against the deputy.
    - A minimal threat may require restraint through metal or plastic handcuffs.
    - A threat of property damage or injury posed by the suspect may require restraint through a body belt, leg or ankle restraints, or a vehicle cage.
  - Deputies may handcuff juveniles if:
    - They pose an escape risk,
    - The juvenile has committed a serious crime, or
    - At the discretion of the deputy, if he or she reasonably believes handcuffing to be necessary for the safety of the juvenile or deputy.

- 39 • Handcuffs
  - 40 ○ Deputies shall handcuff a person with the hands in back, palms facing outward, but
  - 41 may choose to handcuff hands in front if the prisoner meets any of the following
  - 42 conditions:
  - 43     ▪ Is obviously pregnant
  - 44     ▪ Has a physical handicap.
  - 45     ▪ Has injuries that may be aggravated by standard handcuffing procedures.
  - 46
  - 47 ○ Deputies shall not handcuff a person to the transport vehicle or any part of it, or to
  - 48 any other fixed object such as a door or pipe.
  - 49 ○ Deputies shall double-lock handcuffs to help ensure prisoner and deputy safety.
  - 50     ▪ Double locking reduces the chance of picking the lock or of the bracelet
  - 51 accidentally closing, further restricting circulation.
  - 52
  - 53 ○ During lengthy transports or extraditions, a combination of handcuffs in conjunction
  - 54 with a body belt or waist chain and ankle shackles (leg irons) should be utilized.
  - 55 ○ When transporting prisoners within the courthouse from the holding cells to the
  - 56 courtroom or clerk of the courts office, hands may be cuffed in front of the prisoners
  - 57 unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
  - 58
- 59 • Body belt/Waist chain
  - 60 ○ The body belt/waist chain allows the deputy to handcuff the prisoner in front yet
  - 61 restricts the movement of the prisoner's arms and hands.
  - 62 ○ Normally, this device will be used when transporting a prisoner considerable
  - 63 distances.
  - 64
- 65 • Lockable leg braces
  - 66 ○ Lockable leg braces may be used during trials in the courthouse where handcuffs and
  - 67 or ankle shackles are inappropriate such as during jury trials.
  - 68 ○ Lockable leg braces may be ordered to be used by the Judge or at the discretion of the
  - 69 Courthouse/Civil Division Commander or his designee.
  - 70
- 71 • Ankle shackles (leg irons)
  - 72 ○ Ankle shackles shall be used by deputies when transporting any prisoner they have
  - 73 reason to believe might be an escape risk.
  - 74
- 75 • Plastic handcuffs
  - 76 ○ Plastic handcuffs may be used when deputies take multiple prisoners into custody or
  - 77 when a prisoner requires multiple restraints.
  - 78 ○ Deputies must understand that plastic handcuffs once applied can only be removed by
  - 79 cutting.
  - 80 ○ Specially designed cutting tools or sheers may be used to remove plastic handcuffs
  - 81 ○ Knives should not be used as there is a high risk of cutting either the prisoner or
  - 82 deputy.
  - 83
- 84 • Hobble Restraint (Kick Stop)

- May be used for added security for transporting suspects in an upright position.
- This device helps prevent a subject from kicking doors or windows.
- Any use of this device must be documented in a report and must document the reason for its use.
- Deputies must be aware of positional asphyxia and assure that the suspect is transported in an upright position if this device is used.
- Disposable Transport Hood (Spit Mask)
  - This is a layered bacteria-filtering surgical mask made of medical fabric to contain airborne and blood borne contaminants.
  - The device is utilized to protect officers from a prisoner that is spitting.
  - The device draws in under eye and chin areas and covers entire circumference of the head.
  - Any use of this device must be documented in a report and must document the reason for its use.
- Stun Cuff/Elastic Band Restrictor
  - The Stun Cuff/Elastic Band Restrictor is a device that controls a prisoner using wireless non-lethal technology.
  - The use (attaching it to a defendant) of this device can only be authorized by a Sergeant and above.
  - The judge can request the device be attached to a defendant.
  - This device can be hidden under prisoner clothes for jury trials.
  - The activation device shall be under the direct control of a designated bailiff at all times, during trial, when the device is being worn by a defendant.
  - Activation of the Stun Cuff/Elastic Band Restrictor is considered a use of force and shall not be activated due to non-compliance to verbal orders by a defendant.
  - A use of force report, in accordance with [GO 2-6, Use of Force](#), shall be generated following any activation of the Stun Cuff/Elastic Band Restrictor.
- Stun Glove
  - The Stun Glove is a device that controls a prisoner by using non-lethal energy weapon technology.
  - The Stun Glove shall be under the direct control of a designated bailiff at all times, during trial.
  - Activation of the Stun Glove is considered a use of force and shall not be utilized and activated due to non-compliance to verbal orders by a defendant.
  - A use of force report, in accordance with [GO 2-6, Use of Force](#), shall be generated following any activation of the Stun Glove.
- Restraint Chair
  - A restraint chair is located at the Courthouse and is available for the following:
    - Prisoners who become disorderly,
    - Prisoners who are attempting to harm themselves or others,
    - When other form of restraint are ineffective.

- Vehicle Transportation/Seatbelts
  - Seat belts shall be used to secure anyone being transported in a Sheriff's Office vehicle.

## **PROCEDURES**

- Persons not arrested
  - If deputies have a reasonable suspicion that a suspect has been involved in a violent offense or poses a danger to officer safety, then handcuffs may be applied while deputies investigate the possibility that criminal conduct occurred.
  - See [GO 2-3, Field Interviews Stop Frisk](#), for further discussion of the legal aspects of investigative detention.
  - Persons not arrested but who are subject to investigative detention may be restrained under the following circumstances.
    - Suspects shall be handcuffed only as long as necessary to accomplish the investigative goal.
    - Handcuffing of suspects shall be accomplished with minimal discomfort to the suspect.
    - Deputies shall limit the number and type of restraints used on the suspect to what is reasonably necessary to accomplish the investigation.

## **SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

- Positional asphyxia
  - Deputies shall not hog-tie suspects or leave them in a prone position with the hands and ankles bound from behind with handcuffs, belts, or other devices.
  - As soon as any suspect who is lying on his or her stomach has been handcuffed, deputies shall roll the suspect onto his or her side, or place the suspect in a sitting position, if possible.
  - During, transportation in these situations, a second deputy must accompany the prisoner to directly observe and monitor any possibility of respiratory difficulty.
  - Deputies shall not transport prisoners who are restrained by any means in a prone position.
  - Transporting prisoners in the prone position increases the risk of positional asphyxia, a form of suffocation that may cause death.
  - Positional asphyxia can occur when the position of the body interferes with respiration.
  - An unobserved suspect in the prone, "hog-tied", position could experience respiratory problems including suffocation.
  - Intoxication, presence of a head injury, obesity, application of OC spray, and/ or physical disability can increase the possibility of suffocation.
- Other medical and mental considerations
  - Deputies should ascertain if the suspect has used alcohol or drugs recently or suffers from any cardiac, respiratory problem, or other medical condition.

- Deputies shall monitor the suspect and obtain medical treatment if necessary.
- Deputies shall, especially during long transports, check restraining devices to insure that no impairment to breathing or circulation exists.
- Physically or mentally handicapped, frail, and/ or elderly prisoners may require some additional considerations such as:
  - Restraining devices may not be applicable because of the handicap.
  - Prosthetic devices should be examined for hidden weapons.
  - Equipment such as wheelchairs and crutches might require transportation.
  - Alternative transportation vehicles may be required.
- Severely impaired mental patients may require a full-body wrap or a vehicle equipped with specialized restraints, such as a holding chair.