

2.5.6 Restraining Devices

I. POLICY

Providing for the safety and security of the officers, prisoners and the general public. To insure the preservation of the rights and safety of those prisoners and to prevent escape. It shall be the policy of the Johnstown Police Department that all officers comply with the provisions of this general order.

II. PURPOSE

The prevention of injury and safety of the officers is the main objective. It is the goal of this department to assure the highest possible standards for the safety and security of the prisoner and the transporting officer.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. The transportation of a prisoner shall be accomplished using that degree of restraint deemed necessary for officer to safely complete the task.
 1. During the transport, all arrested persons shall be handcuffed and they should be double locked. The transporting officer should handcuff behind the back. Exceptions may be made in limited instances at the discretion of the transporting officer, keeping in mind the safety of him/herself and others. Exceptions may include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Those persons who are crippled or otherwise incapacitated.
 - b. Elderly or ill persons arrested for minor offenses.
 - c. Single amputees will be restrained by utilizing one cuff on the wrist and attaching the other cuff to the prisoner's belt, and if none, as appropriate.
 - d. Juveniles arrested for minor offenses.
 2. All arrested persons being transported in a police vehicle shall be properly secured with a seatbelt.
 3. The use of leg shackles when transporting a prisoner is permissible. Some factors to be considered when using leg shackles include:
 - a. The nature of the charges against the prisoner.
 - b. The escape potential of the prisoner.
 - c. The risk of assault by the prisoner.
 - d. The number of officers on the transport.

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4. No person shall be handcuffed to any stationary object or vehicle, except if an emergency situation arises. Proper documentation of the incident shall be required.
5. Juveniles should be handcuffed when being transported to the police department or other institution.
6. Whenever handcuffs or ankle shackles are utilized during an arrest or prisoner transport, they should be double-locked. The officer should then perform a finger sweep between the cuff and the wrist and/or ankle. This is accomplished by using the tip of the small finger, in order to assure proper circulation. This may not always be immediately possible if the prisoner is difficult, but should eventually be done as soon as possible.
7. In such an event as large scale civil disobedience or riot, where multiple prisoners are taken into custody, alternate methods of restraint may be utilized, such as:
 - a. Flex cuffs.
 - b. Other similar devices designed to be used and discarded.

B. Restraining mentally disturbed or mentally handicapped prisoners.

1. The above policy in Subsection A are applicable to situations involving the transport of mentally handicapped or mentally disturbed prisoners.
2. If the mentally disturbed prisoner has a potential for violence, the transporting officer may request, or the supervisor may direct, another officer to assist the transporting officer by either following the transporting cruiser or riding with the officer.
 - a. The transporting officer or supervisor may request EMS for mentally disturbed prisoners. Emergency Medical Service units are equipped with restraining devices, which can be utilized to protect prisoners from injury. The officer will accompany EMS providers by riding in or following the ambulance.

C. Transportation Equipment – Police Vehicles

1. All police vehicles and any other vehicles so designed and primarily used for prisoner transportation, should be equipped with a metal or plastic screen separating the front and rear compartments. The screen will be of such a material that access into the driver's compartment is terminated, but visual and verbal exchanges are easily conducted. Officers shall authorize no restraining device other than those stated in this policy for use.

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2. All police vehicles primarily designated for prisoner transport should have the interior passenger compartment door and window operating mechanisms disconnected to minimize prisoner escape during transportation.
3. The prisoner transport van doors shall be locked at all times when transporting prisoners.
 - a. The prisoner's do not have to be taken immediately to the police department, but it is preferable.
 - b. Transport van is equipped with a two-compartment insert. First compartment is accessible by the side door only and the second is by the rear door.
 - c. Transport van is also equipped with an anti-theft system that has been designed to lock up the shift lever every time the vehicle is put into park.
 - d. Prisoner's should be seat belted for safety purposes.

Effective Date:

Date: March 15, 2007

By Order Of:

Craig Foust
Chief Of Police