

St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



DIRECTIVE TYPE: GENERAL ORDER		INDEX NUMBER: GO0010
SUBJECT: Handcuffs and Restraints		
EFFECTIVE DATE June 5 th , 2000	REVISED: 11/01/10, 08/05/11, 05/14/13,	AMENDS/RESCINDS: No Previous
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I. POLICY

All persons arrested and taken into custody by St. Joseph Police Officers should be restrained by handcuffs prior to transportation to a Detention and/or Jail facility, unless specifically prohibited by this General Order. If a member finds that circumstances prevent him/her from following some provision of this General Order, **the member shall notify and gain approval from his/her Shift Supervisor before proceeding.**

II. PROCEDURE

A. This General Order pertains to those persons who are arrested and taken into full custody, to be lodged in jail or any other detention facility.

B. Use of Handcuffs:

1. Persons arrested and taken into custody will be handcuffed behind his/her back, palms out, prior to searching. This includes mentally ill and intoxicated persons, whether arrested or taken into protective custody.
2. Handcuffs will be double locked. The officer who has custody of a handcuffed person will double lock the handcuffs as soon as possible after application, and make adjustments, if necessary, to minimize the risk of injury.
3. Exceptions to handcuffing and/or handcuffing behind the back will be made for disabled, sick, or injured persons, when doing so would be physically impossible or harmful to the prisoner. Officer discretion shall be used in these situations, the primary concern being the security and safety of the prisoner and transporting officer.
4. The decision to handcuff elderly persons is left to the discretion of the arresting officer (s). However, if in doubt, officers should always error on the side of safety and employ handcuffs. Other exceptions include, but are not limited to:

- a. Juveniles under the age of 16, who do not represent an apparent risk to others, or risk of escape (taking into consideration weight, height, strength, etc.); and
- b. In limited situations where a warrant for a non-violent offense is being served, and in the judgment of the arresting officer, the prisoner poses no safety or escape risk (If in doubt, always error on the side of safety and employ handcuffs).

C. Use of Other Restraints:

- 1. Temporary devices such as flex-cuffs may be used when conventional handcuffs are unavailable or impractical (but only if a cutter is available).
- 2. The prisoner shall never be handcuffed to any part of the vehicle unless approved vehicle restraining devices are provided.
- 3. When a subject represents an escape risk or is combative, leg restraint devices may be used at the discretion of the arresting officer(s) and Booking Desk personnel. None of these devices may be attached to the handcuffs. These include, but are not limited to:
 - a. flex cuffs;
 - b. leg irons, hobbles;
 - c. Velcro leg restraints; and
 - d. tether straps.
- 4. A shift supervisor will be notified in all cases where a subject has been combative and/or additional restraints have been applied, including use of the Emergency Restraint Chair.
- 5. Prisoners who are to be transported over long distances require special restraint considerations. Waist restraint chains with side handcuffs are recommended.

D. Medical Precautions:

- 1. Whenever a subject is restrained, any officer at the scene must be alert to medical implications relating to the restraint of the subject, particularly when his or her ability to move the limbs and change position is substantially impeded.
- 2. Subjects who are restrained may experience medical distress. Therefore, officers shall follow these guidelines:
 - a. If an officer's body weight has been used to control a subject, relieve the weight as soon as possible;
 - b. Move the subject to an upright position as soon as safely possible;
 - c. Place the subject for transport in a position that does not impede the airway. Only place the subject in the prone position as a last resort;
 - d. Regularly observe the subject during transport;
 - e. Summon emergency medical assistance immediately if the subject displays any visible signs of medical distress, such as loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing, convulsions, or tremors;
 - f. Remove the restraints as soon as it is safely possible;
 - g. If a restrained subject is transported by ambulance, an officer should follow behind the ambulance to the medical facility when practical; and

- h.** Ordinarily, persons in restraints should not be left unsupervised, unless there are extenuating circumstances such as incidents involving multiple arrests, etc.

Chris Connally, Chief of Police

Date