

<b>500.12</b>	<b>June 14, 1991</b>	<b>June 14, 1991</b>	<b>Annually</b>
<b>Handcuffs and Restraints</b>		<b>All Others</b>	<b>May 8, 2013</b>

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this general order is to establish guidelines for the use of handcuffs and other physical restraints.

**DISCUSSION:**

Officers should handcuff persons arrested or placed in custody except when, in the judgment of the officer, handcuffing is unnecessary. Officers shall determine the practicality or necessity of using handcuffs in situations such as transporting juveniles, females, senile or mentally ill persons, and arresting seriously handicapped, injured or ill persons. It is the officer's responsibility to protect him or herself, the public, and persons in custody.

**PROCEDURES:**

**A. Carrying of Handcuffs:**

1. Double-locking handcuffs shall be carried by law enforcement personnel in uniform or in plain clothes.
2. Officers shall be responsible for the efficient operation of their handcuffs. Handcuffs shall be inspected frequently, cleaned and lubricated to prevent malfunction.
3. The handcuff key shall be kept on the officer's person at all times.

**B. Use of Handcuffs:**

1. Handcuffs should be used when:

- a. An arrest is made.
- b. Transporting a prisoner.

2. General Rules

- a. A female prisoner shall not be handcuffed to a male prisoner except in an emergency.
- b. A juvenile shall not be handcuffed to an adult except in an emergency.
- c. Officers shall neither handcuff themselves to prisoners nor use a single cuff as a "come-along".
- d. Officers shall not handcuff prisoners to a fixed object except in an emergency.
- e. When handcuffs are used, officers shall maintain physical control over the handcuffed prisoner by securely holding onto the prisoner while the prisoner is being transported on foot.
- f. Prisoners shall remain handcuffed until delivered inside the jail or place of confinement.

**C. Handcuffs Shall Be Used in Accordance With Maximum Safety Procedures When:**

1. A subject is violent or gives an indication of belligerence.
2. A subject has a reputation of violence.
3. A subject may cause injury to him or herself or others.
4. The subject is an escape risk.

**D. Using Handcuffs for Maximum Safety:**

1. Handcuffs shall be double-locked by inserting the small tip at the top of the key into the small hole in the handcuff stem.
2. Prisoners shall be handcuffed with hands behind their back, palms outward, and prior to searching. With keyholes facing outward, the single strand of the handcuff should be placed against the prisoner's wrists, below the wrist bone, and pressed forward until snug fitting, yet not tight enough to cause physical discomfort or harm.
3. The handcuffs shall be double-locked and checked by pulling or pushing on the handcuff jaw.

4. After handcuffing, the prisoner shall be thoroughly searched in a systematic manner.
5. After handcuffing, female prisoners shall be searched by female officers except in exigent circumstances, to include:
  - a. Situations in which sufficient probable cause exists to search the female prisoner for weapons.
  - b. Situations in which female officers are not available to search female prisoners.
6. For added security, handcuffs should be placed through the prisoner's belt, if one is worn.

**E. Handcuffs May Be Used in Accordance With Minimum Safety Requirements When:**

1. Age, disability or physical capacity justify minimal security measures.
2. A prisoner is suffering from a deformity or other disability, sickness, or injury, making it necessary to handcuff him or her with hands in front. In this situation it is advisable to place the handcuffs through the belt, after reversing the belt and buckling it from the rear.
3. A prisoner with a physical handicap may be handcuffed at the discretion of the transporting officer after consideration has been given as to the nature of the offense and the escape risk of the prisoner being transported. Prisoners handicapped because of a loss of one arm shall be handcuffed by the remaining arm and to the belt if one is available if a higher degree of security is needed.

**F. Handcuffs Used for Minimum Safety:**

1. Prisoners shall be handcuffed with hands in front of body with palms of hands facing outward.
2. Handcuffs shall be secured at the prisoner's waist with a belt. The belt buckle must be positioned at the prisoner's back.
3. Officers shall exercise caution and avoid standing directly in front of the prisoner when applying or removing handcuffs.

**G. Other Physical Restraints:**

1. In some circumstances, as in the case of officers assigned to the routine transporting and handling of prisoners, it may be necessary to utilize more secure types of restraining devices (e.g., leather body straps, ankle chains, belly chains, etc.)
2. Officers shall not hesitate to use more secure devices to supplement handcuffs if it is felt that handcuffs alone are not sufficient.

3. Restraining devices shall not be used in connection with the non-criminal, non-violent mentally ill except for the protection of the subject or others.

**H. Handcuff Removal:**

1. When removing handcuffs, place the prisoner in an off-balance position.
2. Unlock the handcuff by turning the key toward the wrist until the double-lock is released, then reverse the direction to disengage the handcuff jaw.

**I. Use of Hobble Ties:**

1. When an officer encounters a violent arrest situation or an emotionally disturbed person or otherwise violent resister, the officer may use Department issued hobble ties to safely restrain the person. If hobble ties are to be used, the officer will inform his/her supervisor in person or by radio that a situation is occurring that warrants the use of the hobble ties.
2. This situation may be required at anytime during an arrest or during transportation to avoid physical injury to the arrestee, officer, or property (i.e. vehicle).
3. At no time shall the arrestee be hog-tied or left in a face down position for an extended period of time. It shall be noted that violent people have a higher risk of being subject to in-custody death syndrome. Officers are reminded to be observant of known risk factors (i.e. Positional Asphyxia) that may contribute to serious physical injury or death.

**REVIEW PROCESS:**

The Operations Division Commander shall conduct an annual review of this general order and shall make necessary revisions.

**CANCELLATION:**

This general order shall remain in force until revoked or revised by competent authority.

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