

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 10-19
Effective: 01-01-09
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TRANSPORTING ARRESTED PERSONS

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines regarding the reasonable and safe transportation and restraint of prisoners.

POLICY: It is the policy of this Department to establish uniform procedures that provide adequately for the safety and security of prisoners, transporting officers, and the public during prisoner transport. Transportation and restraint by law enforcement agencies of persons who are in custody is a constant requirement and a frequent activity.

DEFINITIONS:

- I. **CONTRABAND:** Articles or substances prohibited from the possession of prisoners.
- II. **HANDICAPPED PRISONER:** A prisoner with an anatomical, physiological, or mental impairment that hinders mobility.
- III. **PRISONER:** A person who has been arrested and taken into custody.
- IV. **PROPER SEARCH:** The physical inspection of a prisoner's person, clothing, and effects for weapons or potentially hazardous articles to be used against law enforcement personnel. This search shall also have consideration for contraband, such as narcotics, narcotic paraphernalia and implements which may facilitate an escape from custody or confinement. A proper search shall be conducted in accordance with federal and state constitutions and statutes and be consistent with this Department's policy on searches.
- V. **RESTRAINING DEVICES:** Equipment such as handcuffs, flex-cuffs, leather restraint belts, leg irons, and hobble devices, used to restrain the movement of the prisoner.
- VI. **SECURITY HAZARD:** Any threat to the security of the prisoner, to the facility in which he is held, or to others with whom the prisoner may come into contact. Estimations of the degree of security hazard will govern the means of transport, the kinds of restraining devices to be used, and other actions to be taken by Department personnel to provide proper protection for and security of the prisoner.
- VII. **TRANSPORTING OFFICER:** A Department employee who is responsible for transporting a prisoner from one point to another.

PROCEDURES:

- I. **VEHICLE INSPECTION**
 - A. At the beginning and end of each tour of duty, all vehicles regularly used for prisoner transport shall be inspected by the Department employee assigned to that vehicle to determine that all safety devices are in working order and that the interior is free of weapons and contraband.
 - B. Prior to placing a prisoner in the vehicle for transport, the transporting officer shall again inspect the interior for weapons or contraband. The vehicle shall be searched again after the

prisoner has been delivered to the detention facility or other destination. (10.01)

- C. Officers should utilize their MVAR equipment throughout the entire transport in accordance to Policy 16-3: Mobile Video/Audio Recording Equipment.

II. HANDCUFFING (10.01)

- A. Officers shall only use those restraining devices for which they have been trained.
- B. Officers shall handcuff (double locked) all prisoners with their hands behind their back and palms facing outward and check for proper application.
- C. The officer may handcuff the prisoner with his hands in front, or utilize other appropriate restraining devices where the prisoner:
 - 1. Is in an obvious state of pregnancy;
 - 2. Has a physical handicap;
 - 3. Has injuries that could be aggravated by standard handcuffing procedures; or
 - 4. Is elderly, a young child, and/or a juvenile.
- D. Prisoners shall not be handcuffed to any part of the vehicle during transport.
- E. Additional approved restraint devices may be used to secure a prisoner who violently resists arrest or who manifests mental disorders such that he poses a threat to himself or the public. Leg restraints made specifically to be shut in the car door to secure the prisoner's legs is an example of an approved restraint device; only if such restraint was purchased and assigned by the City of Jacksonville.

III. TRANSPORT

- A. Prior to transport, all prisoners shall be thoroughly searched for any weapons, tools of escape, or contraband by the transporting officer. (10.01)
 - 1. If practical, the protective search should be conducted by an officer of the same sex of the prisoner.
 - 2. In the event the searching officer and the prisoner are of the opposite sex, or the prisoner is a juvenile, the following guidelines will be followed:
 - a. The search should be observed, if possible, by a witness or in front of the MVAR equipment; and
 - b. The officer will use the back of his hand on or around sensitive areas of the body.
- B. Searches of persons shall adhere to the guidelines in Policy 10-9: Stop, Search, and Arrest of Persons.
- C. Any time the custody of a prisoner is transferred from one officer to another, a search shall be done.
- D. When transporting prisoners, the officer shall provide the dispatcher with the following information when possible:
 - 1. Identity of the prisoner;
 - 2. Arrest location and destination of transport; and
 - 3. Odometer readings before and after transport.
- E. The officer should use care when assisting a prisoner into the vehicle for transport.
- F. All prisoners shall be secured in the vehicle by proper use of a seatbelt.
- G. Where feasible and practical, a supervisor shall be notified when the officer is transporting a person: (10.01)
 - 1. Who is disabled;
 - 2. Known to be mentally ill;
 - 3. With an injury; or
 - 4. Known to or suspected of having a communicable disease.
- H. All transports involving the special circumstances outlined above shall be documented in the