


PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

 HEADQUARTERS
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 CHIEF OF POLICE

TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	390.02	5/9/2024	5/9/2024
SUBJECT TITLE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Restraint & Transport of Prisoners		3/26/2021; 12/5/2017; 10/17/2014; 11/21/2010, 9/16/2012, 7/18/2014	
REFERENCE		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
CALEA 70.1.1; 70.1.2; 70.1.6 - 70.1.8; 70.2.1; 70.4.2; 72.4.1		5/9/2027	
SUBJECT AREA		DISTRIBUTION	
Law Enforcement Operations		All Personnel	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the restraint and transportation of prisoners in the custody of the Providence Police Department.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Providence Police Department to take reasonable precautions while restraining and transporting prisoners so as to protect the lives and safety of the officers, the public, and the person(s) in custody.

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this General Order, the following definitions shall apply:

Contraband: Articles or substances prohibited from the prisoner's possession.

Handicapped Prisoner: A prisoner with an anatomical, physiological, or mental impairment that hinders mobility.

Appropriate medical aid may include increased observation to detect obvious changes in condition, flushing chemical agents from the eyes, applying first aid, evaluation by rescue personnel, or for more serious or life-threatening incidents, immediate aid by medical professionals.

Positional Asphyxia (or asphyxiation): Can be defined as deprivation of oxygen that can result in unconsciousness and often death. Positional asphyxia can occur when a restrained suspect's body position involving either the active or passive application of pressure upon the abdomen interferes with his/her respiration, and is often complicated by combative individuals under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs or who suffer from pre-existing medical conditions, such as obesity/distended abdominal region, asthma, or heart disease.

Prisoner: A person who has been arrested and taken into custody.

Proper Search: The physical inspection of a prisoner's person, clothing, and belongings for weapons, potentially hazardous articles or contraband, such as narcotics, narcotic paraphernalia, and implements that may facilitate an escape from custody or confinement.

Restraining Devices: Department or medically approved equipment that is used to restrain the movement of the prisoner such as handcuffs, waist chains, ankle chains, gang chains, flex cuffs, and tie-down stretchers.

Security Hazard: Any threat to the security of the prisoner, to the facility in which he/she is held, or to others with whom the prisoner may come into contact. The degree of the security hazard will govern the means of transport, the type of restraining devices to be used, and other actions to be taken by the officer to provide proper protection for the security of the prisoner and others.

Prisoner Transport Van: A specially designed van with secured, compartmentalized seating for multiple prisoners.

Transgender: An umbrella term that describes individuals whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth.

PROCEDURE

I. VEHICLE INSPECTION

- A. At the beginning and end of each tour of duty, all assigned vehicles that are regularly used for prisoner transport will be inspected for operational readiness by the officer to whom the vehicle is assigned. The inspection will ensure the following at a minimum:
1. The safety screen will be securely in place and undamaged.
 2. All windows will be intact and outer door latches in proper working order.
 3. Rear seat door handles and window controls will be deactivated, and any rear door child locks will be activated.

4. The interior will be thoroughly searched to verify that no weapons or contraband have been left or hidden within the vehicle.
 5. Any vehicle defect that compromises a vehicle's readiness for prisoner transport will be reported to a supervisor, who will consider grounding the vehicle for repair.
- B. Prior to placing a prisoner in the vehicle for transport, the transporting officer will again inspect the interior for weapons or contraband. The vehicle will be searched again after the prisoner has been transported to the destination.
 - C. This procedure will be followed each and every time a prisoner is placed into or removed from a transport vehicle. This will ensure that any weapons or contraband that might be discovered within the vehicle can be linked to a specific prisoner.

II. RESTRAINING OF PRISONERS

- A. Officers will normally handcuff all prisoners with both of their hands behind the back and palms facing outward. The keyholes shall face away from the prisoner, and the double-locking mechanisms shall be activated as soon as practicable.
- B. The officer may handcuff the prisoner with his/her hands in front and/or utilize other appropriate restraining devices if the prisoner:
 1. Is in an obvious state of pregnancy.
 2. Is handicapped.
 3. Has injuries that could be aggravated by standard handcuffing procedures.
- C. Additional restraining devices may be used to secure a prisoner who violently resists arrest, is a security hazard, or who manifests mental disorders that may pose a threat to himself or herself, the officer, or the public.

III. TRANSPORTING OF PRISONERS

- A. Prior to transport, all prisoners will undergo a thorough, proper search.
 1. The transporting officer should never assume that someone else has already searched the prisoner.
 2. The transporting officer should always search a prisoner prior to transport, even if the prisoner has already been searched by some other officer, given that no search or a poor prior search is possible.

3. When practicable and consistent with ensuring officer safety or the safety of others, searches shall be performed by an officer of the same gender identity as the individual being searched. If an officer of the individual's gender identity is not present at the time, one will be called to the scene as soon as possible so as not to unnecessarily delay the time required to perform the search. Individuals who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming have the right to indicate their preference to be searched by either a male or female officer. If the individual's gender request can be reasonably and expeditiously accommodated without risk to officer safety, the request should be granted.
 4. Strip and/or body cavity searches shall be conducted as prescribed in General Order 390.03, entitled "Strip Searches and Body Cavity Searches".
- B. When transporting a prisoner of an opposite sex or any juvenile to headquarters, the officer will provide dispatch with the following information:
1. The gender of the prisoner.
 2. Arrest location and destination of the transport.
 3. Mileage readings at the start and conclusion of the transport.
- C. Absent exigency or supervisory permission, juveniles shall not be transported in a vehicle with adult offenders.
- D. Prisoners will not be handcuffed to any part of the vehicle during transport.
- E. The transporting officer(s) shall use reasonable care when assisting a prisoner into or out of a transport vehicle.
- F. Prisoners will be transported in the following manner:
1. Where the vehicle has a security screen:
 - a. The prisoner will be seat belted on the passenger side rear seat of the vehicle, so as to be more easily monitored by the vehicle operator.
 - b. The transporting officer(s) will remain in the front seat of the vehicle.

2. A prisoner may be transported in a vehicle without a security screen after receiving authorization from a supervisor.
 - a. Absent a security screen, the transport vehicle must contain a driver and a second officer seated next to the prisoner with his or her primary side/firearm away from the prisoner.
3. Department or medically approved leg restraints may be used when an officer believes the prisoner has a potential for violent behavior or is a security hazard.
4. All prisoners will be secured in the transporting vehicle by proper use of a seat belt unless officer safety considerations make doing so impracticable.
5. Prisoners shall not be purposefully transported in a prone position. Doing so risks positional asphyxia, a form of suffocation that may cause death. If it is impossible to keep the subject in an upright or seated position, the person should be placed on his or her side and monitored.
6. When transporting prisoners in a prisoner transport van the following shall also apply:
 - a. When loading prisoners onto the prisoner transport van, they will be placed into the secured compartments from back to front.
 - b. When unloading prisoners from a prisoner transport van, the compartments will be opened and emptied from the front to the rear of the prisoner transport van.
 - c. Prisoners of the opposite sex shall be placed in separate compartments.
7. Any wheelchairs, crutches, medication, or other personal property should be transported with, but not in the immediate possession or within reach of, the prisoner.
8. Absent exigency or supervisory permission, prisoners will not be left unattended or unmonitored in a police vehicle.
9. While engaged in the transportation process, a situation requiring police intervention or service may occur, e.g. motor vehicle accident or crime in progress. In most cases these situations will be legitimate; however, the possibility to aid in an escape through such tactics always exists.

- a. Unless approved by a supervisor, no stops other than those that are exigent in nature will be made while transporting prisoners.
 - b. Only under exigent circumstances should transporting personnel intervene in matters unrelated to the transport. When considering responding to a need for law enforcement services while transporting a prisoner, an assessment should first be made of the threat or emergency and the unavailability of other resources.
 - c. Officers stopping to render emergency assistance will immediately notify dispatch and request an additional unit to handle the call and clear as soon as possible to continue the transport.
 - d. Officers **shall not** engage in a vehicular pursuit when transporting a prisoner.
- 10. Absent exigency or supervisory permission, officers will not transport a male prisoner and a female prisoner in the same vehicle at the same time, other than the prisoner transport van.
 - 11. At **no time** are civilians allowed to communicate with the prisoner during transportation unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.
 - 12. Absent exigency or a supervisor-approved escalation, transporting officers shall proceed Code Three to their destination.
 - 13. The sally port doors will be completely closed any time a prisoner is taken into or out of a vehicle in the sally port.
 - 14. Prior to removing the prisoner from the vehicle and entering the sally port or entering the cellblock, firearms will be secured in the security lock-boxes located in the sally port or just outside the main cellblock door.

IV. TRANSPORTING TO AN OUTSIDE FACILITY

- A. In addition to the procedures in Section III, above, the following procedures shall also apply when preparing prisoners who are being held in one of the detention areas for transport to an outside facility:
 - 1. There will be, at a minimum, two officers in the cellblock when preparing a prisoner for transport. Additional officers may be utilized in the booking area, sally port, at the destination facility, or whenever and wherever deemed necessary by a supervisor to ensure officer safety and prevent escape.

2. If there is only one prisoner to be transported, both hands shall be handcuffed behind the back, with the keyholes facing outward and the double-locking mechanism activated.
 3. If there are multiple prisoners, transportation will be done with the Prisoner Transport Van by at least two police officers. If the Prisoner Transport Van is unavailable, no more than two prisoners will be transported at one time in a caged patrol vehicle.
 4. Multiple prisoners who are adults and of the same sex will be restrained utilizing Department approved handcuffs and/or shackling chains.
- B. Upon arrival at the outside facility, the transporting personnel shall be responsible for:
1. Following all rules and directives of the outside facility.
 2. Securing firearms in a lock box when provided by the detention facility/outside agency, unless otherwise directed by a person of proper authority.
 3. Properly unloading the prisoner transport van by ensuring that only one secure prisoner compartment is unlocked at a time.
 4. As practicable, visually checking the prisoner's hands/restraints to ensure that they are fully restrained before unlocking the secure prisoner compartment.
 5. Keeping the prisoner(s) properly restrained until custody is transferred to the receiving party or after placing the prisoner(s) in a holding cell.
 6. If a prisoner is believed to be violent, ill, suicidal, a security hazard, or an escape risk, informing the receiving agency upon arrival so that the necessary precautions can be implemented.
 7. Ensuring that all necessary documentation is turned- over to that receiving facility, such as:
 - a. Warrant information.
 - b. The prisoner's identification.
 - c. Paperwork concerning a prisoner's injuries, medical follow-up information, prescriptions, and impaired mental state if applicable (i.e., a Suicide/Detainee Alert Notification).

8. Obtaining a name of the person receiving the prisoner(s) which will later be documented within a supplement report.
9. Personnel will not use a cell phone while handling prisoners, while transporting prisoners, or while loading or unloading prisoners from a transportation vehicle.

V. ESCAPE OF PRISONER

- A. If a prisoner escapes from custody, the officer will immediately:
 1. Notify the Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) via radio, giving as much of the following information as possible:
 - a. Location of escape.
 - b. Direction of flight.
 - c. Description.
 - d. Possible destination, if known.
 - e. Prisoner's name, if known.
 - f. Criminal charges.
 - g. Any other pertinent information.
 2. Pursue the prisoner if possible.
- B. The PSCC will immediately notify the Officer-in-Charge of the Patrol Bureau (OIC) and assign additional units to assist in the search. Other agencies will be notified by the PSCC as appropriate.
- C. Make a thorough search of the area for the escaped suspect.
 1. In cases where the suspect evades apprehension, a warrant shall be drawn for his/her arrest by the Investigative Division.
- D. Upon completion of the search for or apprehension of the prisoner, a detailed field report will be completed and submitted to the officer's immediate supervisor. A reporting of all pertinent information pertaining to the events before, during, and after the escape shall be included. All reports shall be forwarded through the chain-of-command to the Chief of Police, with copies to the office of Professional Standards (OPR).
- E. OPR shall conduct a full review of the incident and submit its findings to the Chief of Police, who shall determine the course of action to be taken against the officer(s) deemed responsible for the escape.

VI. SICK / INJURED / DISABLED PRISONERS

- A. If a prisoner is sick, injured or disabled, the officer will, whenever reasonable and practical, summon Providence Rescue personnel to examine and provide the appropriate medical aid to the prisoner prior to transport.
- B. The officer may use discretion in handcuffing sick, injured, or disabled prisoners, first assessing the security hazard and considering the safety of officers and others.
 - 1. At the discretion of the officer(s), handcuffs and additional restraining devices may be used if mentally disturbed prisoners are a threat to themselves or others or present a security hazard.
- C. Subject to supervisory discretion, if emergency hospital care is necessary, at least one (1) officer will ride with the prisoner in the rescue.
 - 1. The prisoner must be searched prior to transport.
 - 2. The officer will remain with the prisoner (unless prevented by emergency circumstances) until released from custody or until appropriate security can be arranged.
- D. If a prisoner requests non-emergency hospital care, he or she may be transported in a patrol vehicle. The number of officers needed for transport will be determined by an on-scene supervisor.
- E. Transport all medical records and instructions with the prisoner.

VII. SECURITY AND CONTROL OF PRISONERS IN MEDICAL FACILITY

- A. Prior to removing any violent prisoner or any potentially violent person from a police vehicle, the officer should request and wait for hospital security to arrive.
- B. Maintain a constant view of the prisoner.
- C. For security and safety, the prisoner should remain handcuffed at all times. Where this is not practical for the treatment of the prisoner, the officer should:
 - 1. Assess the risk the prisoner may present to others and himself or herself and advise medical staff prior to the removal of restraints.
 - 2. If restraints must be removed for treatment, have hospital personnel use alternative restraints as determined by a risk assessment. **Request additional officers if necessary.** Replace alternative restraints with normal restraints as soon as treatment is completed.

- D. If required, subject to supervisory discretion, an officer(s) guarding the prisoner should be rotated at regular intervals to avoid complacency.
- E. The district sergeant covering the location of the medical facility should arrange periodic courtesy checks to ensure the well-being of the guarding officer(s).
- F. Search the prisoner prior to transport to and from the medical facility.
- G. Ensure the prisoner does not have contact with visitors while maintaining proper restrains to ensure the security of the prisoner.
 - 1. If the prisoner is admitted, the officer is to contact the desk sergeant to arrange for 24-hour coverage with the appropriate agency if the prisoner cannot be arraigned by a Bail Commissioner or summonsed.
- H. Transportation of any prisoner to a medical facility must be documented in the police report.

VIII. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- A. Prisoners who need to be transported to an outside location for special circumstances will require the authorization of a supervisor. Special security measures including, but not limited to, a request for additional officers will be provided on a case-by-case basis.
- B. In the detention area, if a prisoner is violent prior to being unhandcuffed; and/or vocalizing that he or she will assault officers or others; and/ or threatening suicide; then, for the safety of both the officer(s) and the prisoner, the prisoner may remain properly handcuffed, ensuring that the handcuffs are double- locked whenever possible. The Desk Sergeant shall be notified and assess the circumstances. Additional officers should be present if, under these circumstances, an attempt is made to unhandcuff such a prisoner.

APPROVED:



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