JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	6-02 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SUBJECT: Prisoner Restraints	**REVIEW DATE: Annually - June**
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1st, 2007	**ACTION DATE:**
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: 2-16, March 31, 2003	**AMEND DATE: April 12, 2011**
ACCREDITATION INDEX: 70.2.1, 70.3.2	**APPROVED:** Richard A. Pearson **Chief of Police**

I. POLICY

The officer's responsibility for the safe custody of prisoners permits some discretion in the use of handcuffs and restraining devices. The department requires officers to observe their own safety and that of the people they transport by carefully restraining most prisoners who must be taken to a jail or other location. (70.2.1)

II. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of handcuffs and restraining devices.

III. PROCEDURES - Arrested Persons

A. General

1. Officers shall handcuff or restrain all arrested persons.

2. The nature of the restraint chosen to subdue a suspect and the related method of transporting a suspect to jail or to court depends on the level of threat against the officer. A minimal threat may require restraint through metal or plastic handcuffs. A threat of property damage or injury posed by the suspect may require restraint through a body belt, leg or ankle restraints, or a vehicle cage. The most severe threat may involve a full-body wrap or a straight jacket and perhaps a vehicle equipped with specialized restraints.

B. Handcuffs (70.2.1)

1. Officers shall handcuff a person with the hands in back, palms facing outward, but may choose to handcuff hands in front if the prisoner meets any of the following conditions:

   a. Is obviously pregnant.

   b. Has a physical handicap.

   c. Has injuries that may be aggravated by standard handcuffing procedures.

2. Officers shall not handcuff a person to the transport vehicle or any part of it, or to any other fixed object such as a door or pipe.

3. Officers shall double-lock handcuffs to help ensure prisoner and officer safety.

C. Body belt (70.2.1)

The body belt allows the officer to handcuff the prisoner in front yet restricts the movement of the prisoner's arms and hands. Normally, this device will be used when transporting prisoner's considerable distances.

D. Ankle shackles (70.3.2)

Officers shall use ankle shackles when transporting any prisoner from one facility to another and when they have reason to believe the prisoner might be an escape risk.

E. Plastic handcuffs

Plastic handcuffs may be used when officers take into custody several prisoners or when a prisoner requires multiple restraints. Officers must understand that plastic handcuffs once applied can only be removed with a knife or pair of shears.

IV. PROCEDURES - Persons not arrested

A. If officers have a reasonable suspicion that a suspect has been involved in a violent offense, or if the suspect displays aggressive or unusual behavior, or it's suspected that the person may be a danger to themselves or others, or there are multiple suspects, then handcuffs may be applied while officers investigate the possibility that criminal conduct has occurred/is occurring.

B. Persons not arrested but who are subject to investigative detention may be restrained under the following circumstances.

1. Suspects shall be handcuffed only as long as necessary to accomplish the investigative goal.

2. Handcuffing of suspects shall be accomplished with minimal discomfort to the suspect.

3. Officers shall limit the number and type of restraints used on the suspect to what is reasonably necessary to accomplish the investigation.

V. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

A. Positional asphyxia (70.2.1)

Officers shall not hog-tie suspects by placing them in a prone position with the hands and ankles bound together from behind with handcuffs, belts, or other devices. As soon as any suspect who is lying on his or her stomach has been handcuffed, officers shall roll the suspect onto his or her side, or place the suspect in a sitting position.

1. Positional asphyxia occurs when the position of the body interferes with respiration. A prone, hog-tied suspect may suffocate. Intoxication, presence of a head injury, obesity, and physical disability are all circumstances that can increase the possibility of suffocation.

2. Ascertain if the suspect has used alcohol or drugs recently or suffers from any cardiac or respiratory problem. Monitor the suspect and obtain medical treatment if necessary.

B. Hobbles

When transporting a prisoner whom the officer has reason to believe will cause injury or damage by kicking, the officer should use the Hobble restraint. The end of the belt should not be hung out of the door, but should be secured to the interior of the vehicle if necessary.

C. Restraint chair

In the event officers arrest a subject that is extremely violent and cannot be safely transported in a patrol unit that is equipped with a cage, then patrol may call the jail for a restraint chair to respond to the scene.

1. A detention officer will respond to the scene in the jail transport van.

2. The arrestee must be handcuffed with their arms behind them.

3. The detention officer shall secure all the straps and ensure the arrestee is restrained properly. Officers that have received training on the restraint chair may secure as well.

4. The arrestee, once secured in the restraint chair, shall be transported in the jail transport van.

5. Once the arrestee is transported to the jail they are monitored by jail staff in accordance with jail SOP E-5.07-R

VI. COMPLIANCE

Violations of this policy, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action as described in the City of Joplin's Personnel Rules or the Joplin Police Department's Rules and Regulations and General Orders. Members of the Joplin Police Department, while assigned to or assisting other agencies shall comply with this policy.

VII. APPLICATION

This document constitutes department policy, is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form a basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.