

# TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS

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## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines on the transportation of all persons in custody of a law enforcement officer.

## **II. POLICY**

It shall be the policy of this law enforcement agency to take the precautions necessary while transporting prisoners to protect the lives and safety of the officers, public, and the person in custody.

## **III. PROCEDURES**

### **A. Vehicle Inspection**

1. At the beginning and end of each tour of duty, all vehicles regularly used for prisoner transport shall be inspected for readiness as follows:
  - a. The safety screen shall be securely in place and undamaged;
  - b. All windows shall be intact, and outer door latches in proper working order;
  - c. Rear seat door handles and window controls should be deactivated; and
  - d. The interior shall be thoroughly searched to ensure that no weapons or contraband has been left or hidden within the vehicle.
2. 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.

### **B. Handcuffing**

1. Officers shall handcuff (double lock) all prisoners with their hands behind their backs and palms facing outward.
2. The officer may handcuff the prisoner with his/her hands in front, or utilize other appropriate restraining devices when the prisoner:
  - a. Is in an obvious state of pregnancy;
  - b. Has a physical handicap; or
  - c. Has injuries that could be aggravated by standard handcuffing procedures.

3. Prisoners shall not be handcuffed to any part of the vehicle during transport.
4. Additional approved restraint devices may be used to secure a prisoner who violently resists arrest or who manifests mental disorders such that he/she poses a threat to himself/herself or to the public.

C. Transport

1. Prior to transport, all prisoners shall be thoroughly searched for any weapons or tools of escape.
  - a. If practical, the protective search should be conducted by an officer of the same sex as the prisoner; and
  - b. The transporting officer should search the prisoner, unless a search was conducted in his presence.
2. When transporting prisoners, the officer shall provide the communications center with the following information when possible:
  - a. Identity of the prisoner;
  - b. Arrest location and destination of transport;
  - c. Time and mileage readings before and after transport; and
  - d. If the prisoner being transported is deemed an unusual security risk, the officer or agency personnel will notify, through KENTCOM communications, the appropriate agency or court officials of the prisoner's status and any other relevant information regarding the prisoner and/or his/her behavior.
3. The officer should use care when assisting a prisoner into the vehicle for transport.
4. Prisoners shall be transported in the following manner:
  - a. Where the vehicle has a security screen, but only one transporting officer, the prisoner shall be placed in the back seat on the right hand side of the vehicle. When the vehicle is not equipped with a security screen and has only one transporting officer, the prisoner shall be placed in the right front seat.
  - b. When a prisoner is being transported in a two officer vehicle without a security screen, the prisoner shall be placed in the right rear seat. The second officer shall sit in the left rear seat behind the driver.
  - c. Leg restraints shall be used when an officer believes the prisoner has a potential for violent behavior.
  - d. One transporting officer should not attempt to transport more than one prisoner in a vehicle without a security barrier, but should request transport assistance.
  - e. All prisoners shall be secured in the vehicle by proper use of a seat belt.
5. Any wheelchairs, crutches, prosthetic devices, and medication should be transported with, but not in the possession of, the prisoner.
6. Prisoners shall not be left unattended during transport. Any escape shall be immediately reported to the communications center.

7. The officer will also document the incident on his report and notify a supervisor of the escape.

ORDERED and EXECUTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013

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Christopher Workman  
Chief of Police