

Village of Lake Hallie Police

416 – Use of Handcuffs

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Issued by: Chief Edward A. Orgon, Jr.
Special: Sgts D. Sokup & J. Rathke
Special:

I. PURPOSE

Officers who make physical arrests, for any charge, have a duty to keep the prisoner safe and to take all necessary measures to maintain custody, control and prevent escape.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this department that all reasonable safety and security measures be taken whenever a person is placed under arrest or placed in protective custody.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Handcuffs: For purpose of this policy handcuffs are defined as a metal fastening that can be locked around a wrist and is usually connected by a chain or bar with another such fastening —usually used in plural. It also includes plastic or nylon or cloth handcuffs (also called PlastiCuffs or FlexiCuffs, flex cuffs or Double Cuffs) are a form of physical restraint for the hands, using plastic straps. They function as handcuffs but are cheaper and easier to carry than metal handcuffs, and they cannot be reused.

IV. PROCEDURES:

- A. Any persons physically arrested or placed in protective custody, regardless of the charge, are to be handcuffed behind the back or with equipment specifically designed to transport a person in custody, such as a transport belt, if at all possible, except as follows:
 1. Elderly or ill persons arrested for minor offenses.
 2. Persons who are temporarily incapacitated, such as a serious wound to the lower arms, hands, etc., or a woman in advanced stages of pregnancy, etc.
 3. Mentally disturbed persons who are calm, but it is logically believed they would become violent if handcuffs were to be used.
 4. Juveniles who are either very young, or whom the officer has personal knowledge of, and as such, determines that the use of handcuffs is not an appropriate action.

When handcuffs have not been used in the above stated exceptions (1-4), or other situations which an officer cannot justify, they will be held accountable for any escape of a prisoner.

B. Transporting Prisoners:

1. Prisoners will be handcuffed behind the back when possible. Cuffs may be used in front of the body when the prisoner is wearing a garment with a belt through which the handcuffs may be laced to securely pin the hands to prevent flailing about.
2. Prisoners may be cuffed with department approved oversized handcuffs, leg shackles, hobbles or two pairs of handcuffs linked together for reasons such as prisoners being large in stature, shoulder injuries, or prisoners kicking at officers or equipment.
3. Prisoners (cuffed or not) shall be so placed in the police vehicle so that the seat belts may be secured about the person in order to assure their safety during transportation.

C. Treatment of Injured Prisoners:

1. Injured prisoners are to be transported to the nearest medical facility for proper treatment.
2. During the time awaiting treatment and during the treatment activities, the officer shall not relax security.
3. The prisoner is to remain handcuffed during treatment unless the handcuffs interfere with such treatment. Should medical treatment require the removal of handcuffs, the officer shall request that the restraints (leather belts) be used by hospital personnel.
4. The officer is always to remain with the prisoner during the hospital stay unless the injury is so serious that escape is not medically possible (i.e., surgery, serious gunshot wound, knife wound, broken leg, etc.)