



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-82

Effective: 10/25/17 Review Due: 10/25/18 Replaces: 03/10/16

2-82 RESTRAINT AND TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS

2-82-1 Policy

Department policy is to ensure safety and security for prisoners, transporting officers, and the general public when transporting restrained prisoners in police vehicles.

2-82-2 Definition

A. Prisoner

For the purpose of this section, a prisoner is anyone under arrest or in protective custody.

2-82-3 Rules and Procedures

[6] A. Restraints

1. Use of restraints to secure prisoners is limited to the following department approved restraining devices:
 - a. Double locking handcuffs;
 - b. Double locking leg shackles;
 - c. The "Passive Restraint System" when appropriate (see 2-19-3-M); and/or
 - d. Department-issued flexcuffs.

[7] B. Handcuffing of Prisoners

1. All prisoners will be handcuffed behind their backs and remain so restrained while being transported to a detention or medical facility.
 - a. Exceptions may be made for the elderly, invalids, ill or injured individuals, or other persons with physical handicaps which preclude the use of handcuffs.
 - b. Very careful evaluation and discretion must be utilized by officers in determining when exceptions apply. The nature of an individual's illness, injury, or physical handicap must be weighed against the threat the individual poses to the officer. Partial restraint is preferable to no restraint at all.
2. Handcuffs and leg shackles will be double locked when in use.

[6] C. Searching Prisoners

1. When making an arrest, an officer shall carefully search the prisoner and take possession of all weapons and evidence prior to placing the prisoner in the police vehicle.



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2. In the event the prisoner is turned over to another officer for transportation, the transporting officer shall take the same precaution.
3. If possible, prisoners will be searched by personnel of the same sex. If personnel of the same sex are not immediately available at the arrest scene, officers will search for weapons consistent with approved officer survival techniques.

[7] D. Seat Belts

In all cases where seat belts are available, they will be utilized by each prisoner and the driver.

[7] E. Transportation of Prisoners

1. The transporting officer will search his/her vehicle to assure that no contraband, weapons, or other items are present prior to and after transporting prisoners and at the beginning and end of each work shift.
2. Transporting Prisoners in a Timely Manner
 - a. Officers should minimize the time prisoners are kept at a scene and transport the prisoners as soon as practical.
 - b. If an officer has a prisoner, and the officer may have to remain at the scene, the officer will ensure that an assisting officer transport the prisoner as soon as possible.
 - c. Stopping to respond to the need for law enforcement services while transporting a prisoner should be considered only when the risk to the prisoner is minimal.
3. Prisoners will not be allowed to contact an attorney or family member while they are being transported to the detention facility.
4. Prisoners will be advised that they will be allowed to communicate with their attorney/family member once they have been booked into the detention facility.

[7] F. Transporting Prisoners

When it is necessary for an officer to transport a prisoner, the officer will notify the dispatcher of his/her location, destination, starting mileage at the scene, and ending mileage upon arrival at the destination by verbal communication over the air.



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- [7] G. Transporting Prisoners who are Violent or Known or Suspected to have a Mental Disorder and/or in Crisis
1. Officers may be called to transport a person who is known or suspected to have a mental disorder and/or in crisis who presents a likelihood of causing serious harm to him/herself or others, to an Albuquerque evaluation facility. Officers will ensure that the mental health staff has a detailed and accurate account of the incident surrounding the protective custody.
 2. Officers will complete and submit an incident report, which will include the physician and patient information in the persons section of the report.
 3. Under no circumstances shall one officer attempt to transport more than one violent prisoner. If necessary, officers should pair up to transport violent prisoners. The police unit not being used shall be properly parked and secured.
 4. When necessary, leg shackles, Passive Restraint System, and/or Department issued flexcuffs may be used to further restrain violent or dangerous prisoners. No other restraining devices are authorized. When leg shackles and/or flexcuffs are used, reports shall so indicate.
 5. Prisoners known or suspected of having a mental disorder and/or in crisis should be restrained securely without causing injury, whenever possible.
 6. Prisoners who are violent due to a drug overdose or drug induced psychosis and/or mental disorder will require medical evaluation prior to incarceration. Restraint and transportation should be accomplished by rescue/ambulance with an officer present at all times.

[7] H. Transporting the Handicapped

Due care should be taken when transporting handicapped individuals. Officers are responsible for ensuring that necessary handicap aids as well as prescription medicines are transported and made available to the prisoner at the appropriate time. Prescription drugs must be turned over to the medical staff at the detention center.

[7] I. Placement of Prisoners in Police Vehicles

1. Prisoners will be placed in the right front seat of a police vehicle which does not have a prisoner security screen. In two officer units, the prisoner will be placed in the right rear seat and the second officer will ride in the left rear seat.
2. Police vehicles equipped with a security screen will have the rear window and door handles removed and:
 - a. Prisoners will be placed in the right rear seat.



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PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-82

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- b. In two officer units, the second officer will observe the prisoner(s) from the right front seat.
- c. No more than three prisoners will be transported in the back seat.

[7] J. Escape of Prisoners

1. In the event of an escape of a prisoner prior to or during transportation, the transporting officer will:
 - a. Immediately notify communications and his/her immediate supervisor;
 - b. Initiate a locate for the escapee; and
 - c. Prepare an offense/incident report of the escape.

[7] K. Securing of Firearms/Handcuffing in the Booking Area

1. Officers will comply with regulations set forth by the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) regarding securing of firearms.
2. Prisoners will remain handcuffed until immediately prior to being placed in a cell.

[3] L. Removal of Handcuffs

1. Removal of handcuffs at MDC is allowable only when necessary for the prisoner to be evaluated by medical personnel and when being turned over to the custody of MDC personnel.

M. Handling of Violent, Combative Prisoners

1. When officers are faced with violent, combative prisoners, they will follow these procedures:
 - a. Officers will utilize "Passive Restraint System" only when necessary to stabilize a violent individual from a demonstrated intent to injure himself or another.
 - i. The P.R.S. will be used for only as long as is absolutely necessary, and will be removed as soon as practical.
 - ii. As long as the P.R.S. is applied to a prisoner, officers will constantly monitor the prisoner, ensuring his/her physical health is not in danger.
 - iii. If there are signs of a problem that requires medical attention, officers will summon AFD rescue immediately.
 - b. Officers must guard against leaving the individual or allowing the individual to go into the chest down position as this could cause positional asphyxia.
 - c. Officers will check the PRS prior to use to ensure the straps are in good condition and the tensioning device is working properly.



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- d. Officers will not utilize a passive restraint procedure by themselves. A minimum of two officers will be utilized.
- e. The subject will then be moved to the "Downed Search" position (on his/her side) or maneuvered to his/her knees. This will ensure the subject has a clear unobstructed airway.
- f. The subject will then be placed in a patrol car in an upright seated position, and seat-belted in.
- g. The subject will be transported with a second officer riding in the vehicle. The secondary officer's duties are to ensure that the subject remains seated upright and maintains an open clear airway.
- h. Subjects who are under the passive restraint will always be transported with a second officer riding in the vehicle. Under no circumstances will a subject who is under passive restraint be allowed to remain in the face down prone position.
- i. Officers will promptly notify a supervisor when they have used the PRS device.
- j. Officers will determine if the subject's behavior warrants the use of protective padded headgear.
- k. Any injuries received by the subject while utilizing the PRS device will be reported in accordance with SOP 2-54 (Reporting Uses of Force).
- l. The arresting officer will write a detailed offense/incident report outlining the use of the restraint device.

[7] N. Handling of Spitting Prisoners

1. Officers encountering prisoners who spit will utilize the Department issued "Spit Sock" as follows:
 - a. The spit sock will be placed over the head of the prisoner to prevent the transfer of saliva.
 - b. The spit sock is designed to be used only once and will be disposed of in an appropriate receptacle when removed.
2. No other method will be utilized to control this action. The spit sock will only be used to deter spitting and will NOT be used for any other purpose.
3. An Offense/Incident Report will be submitted to document the use of the spit sock.
4. To obtain a replacement spit sock, officers must present a copy of the Offense/Incident Report detailing the use of the spit sock to APD Property