

## PATROL

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### PRISONER TRANSPORTATION

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to set forth specific guidelines for the transportation of prisoners while keeping the safety of the officer, prisoner and the public the primary objectives.

**Policy Statement:** In all situations when officers transport prisoners, they will ensure their own safety, as well as the safety of the prisoner and the general public. It is the policy of the North Little Rock Police Department to ensure that all prisoners are adequately controlled and restrained so that they do not escape from custody and are not placed in situations that could result in increased danger to themselves or to the public. In order to minimize the potential for injury, prisoners will be restrained at all times during transport or transfer unless special circumstances exist making restraint impractical. This is not to degrade the prisoner, but rather to ensure safety for all involved.

**Summary of changes:** New format.

**Procedure:**

**1 Search Prior to Transport**

- 1.1 Whenever an officer takes custody of a prisoner, either for transport or transfer, the officer will observe the following guidelines:
  - 1.1.1 Handcuff FIRST, and then search the prisoner seizing any contraband or potential weapons. The search of the arrestee in the field by officers will be conducted as thoroughly as deemed appropriate by the arresting officer in a professional and courteous manner, and in accordance with Policy Directive 30-10. [CALEA 70.1.1]
  - 1.1.2 When the arrestee is transferred from the custody of one officer to another, the receiving officer will search the arrestee again.
  - 1.1.3 The transport vehicle's passenger compartment will be searched at the beginning of the officer's shift, prior to and following the transport of prisoners, and at the end of the officer's shift. [CALEA 70.1.2]

**2 Prisoner Restraint During Transport [CALEA 70.2.1]**

- 2.1 To preserve the safety of the officers and to prevent the escape of an arrestee, officers will use handcuffs to restrain an arrestee's hands behind his/her back. Extenuating circumstances where prisoners are not to be handcuffed or may be handcuffed in front utilizing waist chains include: consideration of the arrestee's age; physical disabilities; mental stability; transport of prisoners to or from other jurisdictions outside the metropolitan area; or other mitigating circumstances. Juveniles may be handcuffed at the discretion of the officer with regards to the circumstances surrounding the arrest of the juvenile.
- 2.2 No exception to the handcuffing requirement may be made in any of the following cases:
  - 2.2.1 The prisoner is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
  - 2.2.2 The prisoner is under arrest for a violent offense.
  - 2.2.3 The prisoner has a known history of violence.
  - 2.2.4 The prisoner resisted arrest or otherwise has exhibited violent behavior.
- 2.3 In the event that the prisoner is violent or causing damage to the patrol unit, Department-approved restraining devices may be used to prevent damage to the patrol unit or to prevent injury to the prisoner. When using the leg restraint, it will not be used in such a manner as to draw the arrested persons hands and feet together (hog-tying). There should be enough slack in the tether to allow recumbent position.
- 2.4 All officers will ensure the handcuffs are double locked when an individual is handcuffed. In the event that the prisoner is violent and it is impossible to immediately double lock the handcuffs, the handcuffs will be checked, adjusted and double locked as soon as assistance is available and it is possible.
- 2.5 Should the prisoner begin to spit on the officer, only a "spit net" is authorized to be placed over the prisoner's head. Under no circumstances will the prisoner's mouth be covered with anything as to obstruct the person's airway.

**3 Transport Vehicles**

- 3.1 Vehicles regularly used to transport prisoners will be modified in such a way as to prohibit the opening of the doors and windows from the rear passenger compartment without the knowledge of the transporting officer. [CALEA 70.4.2]
- 3.2 All police vehicles regularly used to transport prisoners will have safety barriers between the front and rear compartments. Safety barriers are not a substitute for handcuffs. Prisoners will be handcuffed according to the guidelines set forth in this policy. [CALEA 70.4.1]

3.3 Safety barriers will be of a design and installed in such a manner as to ensure no protrusions or sharp edges exist that could cause accidental injury to an officer or arrested person.

#### **4 Special Prisoner Transport Situations: Opposite Sex Transport by Officers**

4.1 When an officer is required to transport an arrestee of the opposite sex, the transporting officers will notify the Communications Center of the following: Officers unit number, the arrestee's race and sex, the beginning mileage and destination of the transport, the ending mileage and arrival point if different.

4.2 If any special or extenuating circumstances exist, the supervisor may require that an officer of the same sex as the arrestee or a second officer be assigned to accompany the transporting officer.

4.3 When arrestees of the opposite sex are transported together, officers must insure that the personal space and dignity of each is protected.

#### **5 Sick or Injured Persons [CALEA 70.3.1]**

5.1 In cases where prisoners become sick or injured prior to or during transport or incidental to arrest, the arresting officer will immediately notify their supervisor and arrange for medical attention.

5.2 When an arrestee requires or requests additional medical attention, an officer will summon an ambulance or transport the injured person to a medical facility for treatment.

5.3 If immediate, life threatening medical attention is required at the scene of an incident, officers will ensure the continued security of the arrested person while allowing for medical care.

5.4 Officers will make every reasonable effort to adhere to requests from medical personnel concerning the restraint of arrestees receiving medical treatment while exercising sound judgment based on security and officer safety concerns. In the event that a conflict presents itself, officers will summon a supervisor to the facility.

#### **6 Handicapped Prisoners [CALEA 70.3.1]**

6.1 When transporting handicapped prisoners, the transporting officers will ensure that the transport is conducted in a safe manner consistent with the specific needs of the handicapped prisoner, as well as the security needs of the department.

6.2 When transporting handicapped prisoners, officers will take into consideration the specific handicap of the prisoner and determine if the use of restraining devices are appropriate, given the totality of the circumstances.

6.3 If a person with a physical handicap requires transportation to or from headquarters, the supervisor may determine the appropriate mode of transportation to be used. In all cases involving the transportation of handicapped persons in a police vehicle, officers will give consideration to the dignity of the handicapped person respective of their particular disability while assisting them into the police vehicle.

6.4 In cases where the handicapped prisoner cannot enter, with only minimal assistance, or be transported safely in a police vehicle in a dignified manner, an ambulance or other appropriate vehicle may be used. It is the responsibility of the officer to ensure that adequate safeguards and security precautions are taken during unusual transports.

#### **7 Medical Facilities [CALEA 70.3.2]**

7.1 When a prisoner is to be treated at a medical facility, officers are to exercise the utmost cooperation with medical personnel; however, the safety of the officer and the public is not to be compromised under any circumstances. Officers should maintain visual contact of the arrestee at all times during treatment, if possible.

7.2 When possible, the arrest of persons to be hospitalized will be delayed in order to avoid guard duty that may become lengthy. If arrest is unavoidable, the officer will immediately notify the on-duty supervisor so that an officer can be assigned guard duty.

7.3 Officers performing guard duty will avoid fraternizing with the arrestee and should restrict visitation by family members and friends. Supervisors will make frequent checks with officers assigned guard duty to ensure that they are receiving necessary breaks.

#### **8 Prisoner Escape**

8.1 In the event a prisoner should escape from custody of a transporting officer, the officer will immediately:

8.1.1 Notify the Communications Center and the on duty supervisor and advise the location of the incident, the description of the prisoner, direction of travel, mode of travel and any additional information available to assist in the search. [CALEA 70.1.7a]

8.1.2 Request additional units respond to the area or have the Communications Center notify the appropriate jurisdiction. If necessary, the on duty North Little Rock Police Supervisor will respond to the location.

8.2 In every case, the on duty supervisor will ensure that a complete and detailed report outlining the circumstances surrounding the escape, as well as the follow-up action taken or required, will be prepared by the transporting officer. [CALEA 70.1.7b, c]

## **9 Change of Custody**

- 9.1 When an arrestee is either picked up from or transported to another facility, agency or court, the officer will ensure that the correctly identified arrestee is transported.
- 9.2 When an officer transports an arrestee to another facility where a change of custody will occur, the officer will follow procedures set forth at that facility.
- 9.3 If available, the officer will secure his firearm in an appropriate container at the facility or in the trunk of the police vehicle. [CALEA 70.1.6a]
- 9.4 Restraining devices should be removed from the arrestee prior to being placed in any holding cell unless directed to do otherwise by the facility personnel. [CALEA 70.1.6b]
- 9.5 Provide the facility personnel with a copy of all documents for the custody of the arrestee and complete all forms required by the facility. [CALEA 70.1.6c,e][CALEA 70.5.1b]
- 9.6 The transporting officer will receive or convey all information concerning the arrestee's medical condition, risk of escape, potential for violence, suicide or other unusual behavior. [CALEA 70.1.6d, e][CALEA 70.5.1c]
- 9.7 The transporting officer will notify the receiving court official or receiving agency of any additional security concerns or risks with an arrestee that may require the use of any additional restraining devices or the use of additional officers during court proceedings. [CALEA 70.1.8]

## **10 Transport of Prisoners**

- 10.1 Officers transporting prisoners will divert their route to render aid and assistance in life threatening situations only. When such instances occur, the transporting officer will insure that the risk to the prisoner is minimal. Officers transporting prisoners should use caution that diversionary incidents, whether or not instigated by persons attempting to free the prisoner, may divert the transporting officer and place the prisoner in jeopardy or enhance chances for escape. [CALEA 70.1.4]
- 10.2 Once a prisoner is in transit from one location to another, there will be no communication by him with anyone other than law enforcement personnel, except in cases of extreme emergency. [CALEA 70.1.5]
- 10.3 In cases of extended (150 mile radius) transport, outside the metropolitan area, two officers will be utilized. The arrestee will be restrained in accordance with this policy. For extended transports, vehicle condition should be checked (tires, oil, etc.) prior to receiving a prisoner. If distance dictates, a refueling credit card will be utilized.
- 10.4 Officers may obtain waist belts with handcuffs or leg shackles from Support Service Division if necessary for extended or hazardous transports.
- 10.5 For safety reasons the arrestee should be under observation at all times. Prisoners should be placed in the transporting vehicle in such a position that it is possible to observe their actions. [CALEA 70.1.3]
- 10.5.1 Whenever possible, the prisoner should not be seated directly behind the transporting officer unless accompanied by another officer. [CALEA 70.1.3]
- 10.5.2 When there are two transporting officers, the prisoner will be seated directly behind the driver so that the second officer can observe the prisoner's actions.
- 10.5.3 Prisoners will always be handcuffed with their hands behind their back and seat belted in.
- 10.6 When transporting two prisoners, the officer needs to be acutely aware of their actions and any conversation between them.
- 10.6.1 Officers will not transport two combative prisoners in the same vehicle.
- 10.6.2 If circumstances are such that a second unit with a barrier is not available a second unit will follow behind the primary transporting officer to ensure his safety and lend assistance until the prisoners are secure in the jail or holding facility.
- 10.7 Under no circumstances will prisoners be transported to any location for any reason other than a detention facility, medical facility, law enforcement facility, or to a court proceeding related to his/her arrest. [CALEA 70.3.3]

## **11 Prisoner Identification**

- 11.1 It is imperative that the transporting officer confirms the identity of the person they are transporting, whether it is to court or for other purposes.
- 11.2 The transporting officer will confirm the identity of the prisoner by checking the following: [CALEA 70.5.1a]
  - 11.2.1 Armband;

- 11.2.2 Photograph;
- 11.2.3 Information contained in prisoner's file at the holding facility or jail;
- 11.2.4 Commitment papers; and
- 11.2.5 Utilizing the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

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