

POLICY 25. PRISONER TRANSPORTATION

A. Prisoner and patrol vehicle searches

1. Deputies shall assume that the prisoner may have had an opportunity to obtain contraband or a weapon prior to the time that the prisoner came into the custody of the transporting officer. Therefore, deputies shall search every prisoner(s) prior to being placed in a patrol vehicle for transportation.
2. Deputies shall assume that contraband and/or weapons may have been placed in or on their vehicles, both before and after transporting of the prisoner(s). Therefore, deputies will inspect their patrol vehicles for such items or any irregularities prior to and after transporting prisoners.

B. Prisoner communication

1. In order to assure the safety aspects of the transportation of a prisoner, the prisoner normally will not be allowed to communicate with anyone other than the deputy performing the transportation.
2. Exceptions to the above will only be permitted upon authorization by the deputy in charge of the transportation.

C. Deputy's responsibilities at detention facility

1. Upon arrival at the detention facility, the deputy shall secure his firearm either in a weapons locker, if provided or in the locked trunk of his patrol unit prior to removing any restraining devices from the prisoner.
2. The deputy shall not remove any restraining devices from the prisoner prior to reaching a secured holding area.
3. The deputy shall deliver any and all pertinent written documentation to the intake officer reference the incarceration of the prisoner.
4. The deputy shall search the prisoner in front of the receiving officer/deputy.
5. The deputy shall remain in the area until he receives a copy of the intake slip with the time stamp of the intake officer on the copy.

D. Medical care of prisoner prior to or during transporting

1. If, during the arrest and transportation, a prisoner becomes sick or injured, the transporting deputy shall immediately seek medical attention for the prisoner.
2. Per Penal Code 3407:

- a. an inmate known to be pregnant or in recovery after delivery shall not be restrained by the use of leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind the body;
 - b. a pregnant inmate in labor, during delivery, or in recovery after delivery, shall not be restrained by the wrists, ankles, or both, unless deemed necessary for the safety and security of the inmate, the staff, or the public;
 - c. restraints shall be removed when a professional who is currently responsible for the medical care of a pregnant inmate during a medical emergency, labor, delivery, or recovery after delivery determines the removal of restraints is medically necessary.
3. If the need arises to transport a prisoner to a medical care facility prior to a detention facility, the transporting deputy shall ensure the integrity of the security of the prisoner. This includes, but is not limited to, adequate restraining devices on the prisoner, separation of the prisoner from others, and constant visual observation of the prisoner by the deputy.
4. If the prisoner is to be admitted to the hospital, the deputy will immediately notify the detention facility watch commander so that the watch commander may make arrangements for hospital guards or direct the deputy to leave the prisoner without a guard. If a guard is assigned, the deputy will closely guard the prisoner until properly relieved by the hospital guard.
5. If it is not possible to transport the sick or injured prisoner to a medical facility, the transporting deputy shall inform the intake deputy of the nature of the prisoner's illness or injury. The intake deputy will subsequently notify the detention facility's medical staff, who shall provide for the prisoner's welfare upon the prisoner's arrival at the detention facility.

E. Transporting handicapped prisoners

1. From time to time the transporting deputy may find it necessary to arrest and subsequently transport a handicapped prisoner. Depending on the severity of the condition of the handicap, i.e., ambulatory versus non-ambulatory, it might be necessary for the deputy to request an additional deputy to assist him in transporting the handicapped prisoner. Deputies shall evaluate and identify the need for handicapped devices such as wheelchairs and necessary medicine for the prisoner.
2. While special considerations may be necessary for the transporting of handicapped prisoners, the safety of the deputy and the public, as well as the prisoner's safety always come first.

F. Use of restraining devices on prisoners

1. With no unusual circumstances present, i.e., handicapped prisoners, deputies shall keep prisoners handcuffed with their hands behind their backs.
2. If a deputy is arresting multiple suspects and the deputy does not have a sufficient number of handcuffs for each prisoner, the deputy shall handcuff prisoners to each other with their arms in front and intertwined.
3. In no circumstances shall deputies handcuff a prisoner to any part of the patrol unit.
4. The use of restraining devices may not be necessary on all handicapped prisoners. An example would be the arrestee that is a paraplegic. This type of arrestee would not need leg restraints.
5. The use of restraining devices on sick or injured prisoners may not be necessary all of the time. An example would be an incapacitated prisoner who is being transported to a hospital from a traffic accident scene via an ambulance with the deputy providing escort.

The use of restraining devices on a handicapped, sick, or injured prisoner while being transported to a detention facility will be at the discretion of the transporting deputy based on an evaluation of the level of safety of the deputy, the public, and the prisoner.

G. Documentation

1. The arresting deputy will document any and all pertinent security information regarding personal traits of the prisoner. These traits shall include, but not be limited to: escape risk, keep separates, suicidal tendencies, as well as unusual illnesses. The arresting/transporting deputy shall document these traits on the Inmate Intake Form (J-15 booking slip) and shall orally make the intake deputy aware of same.