



**Maryland-National Capital Park Police
Prince George's County Division**



DIVISION DIRECTIVE

TITLE		PROCEDURE NUMBER	
USE OF RESTRAINING DEVICES		PG1002.0	
SECTION	DISTRIBUTION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVIEW DATE
Adult Arrest Procedures	A	06/01/17	06/01/19
REPLACES			
PG1002.0 "Use Of Restraining Devices", issued 10/15/04			
RELATED DIRECTIVES	REFERENCES	AUTHORITY	
PG1000.0, 1010.0	CALEA 1, 71, 72	 Chief Stanley R. Johnson	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish policy and guidelines for the use, carrying and availability of restraining devices for officers of this Division.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this Division that all persons under arrest, or otherwise taken into custody by its officers, are restrained by handcuffs, leg shackles or other suitable and appropriate restraining devices during such times as they are being transported or are in unsecured areas, to ensure the protection of the public, the officer(s) and the person, unless in the officer's judgment, circumstances preclude the use of restraining devices.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Handcuffs/Flex-cuffs will be of the type approved or issued by this Division. Flex-cuffs are to be used only when other restraining devices are either unavailable or inappropriate. Officers are reminded of the effectiveness of restraining devices in maintaining control of an individual and minimizing the possibility of a situation escalating to a point requiring the use of a higher degree of force. Therefore, it is standard Division procedure to use these restraining devices to provide security with a minimum degree of force.

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1. Handcuffs or flex-cuffs are to be used on all arrested persons, persons taken into custody by order of a court of competent jurisdiction or by order of a competent medical authority.
 2. Officers are responsible for the efficient operation of their handcuffs. They should be checked frequently, and cleaned and lubricated to prevent malfunctions.
 3. The handcuff key will be kept on the officer's person at all times while the officer is on duty.
- B. Before being transported, all prisoners will be handcuffed with their hands behind their back.
1. A prisoner who has a deformity or other disability, handicap, sickness, or injury, may be handcuffed with their hands in front. In this situation, it is advisable to place the handcuffs through a belt, if available (preferably after reversing the belt) and buckling it from the rear. In some rare cases, at the officer's discretion, it may be advisable to refrain from using restraining devices. Any decision not to utilize restraining devices is to be approved by a supervisor, except in an emergency or exigent circumstances.
 2. Leg shackles may be used for added security, or as directed by competent authority. Leg shackles or padded leather restraints may be used at any time the officer, or a supervisor deems them necessary to ensure the safety of the prisoner, the arresting or transporting officer(s) or the public. Flex-cuffs may also be used to secure a person's feet when leg shackles are unavailable and when the situation warrants their use.
 - a. Leg shackles will be double locked unless an emergency situation dictates otherwise. Leg shackle keyholes should face toward the floor both to discourage tampering and to facilitate proper removal.
 - b. When removing leg shackles, it is safer to have the prisoner, from a seated position, raise both legs at the same time. By having both feet simultaneously off the floor, the prisoner is deprived of the leverage needed to deliver a kicking blow to the attending officer.
 - c. When transporting a prisoner under the influence of narcotics or other dangerous or hallucinogenic drugs, or when a prisoner is acting in such a violent manner as to lead the transporting officer to believe that the prisoner is so affected, the prisoner will be restrained with leg shackles. When exigent circumstances exist necessitating immediate removal of an individual so affected, application of leg shackles will be accomplished as soon as practical. Leg shackles will remain on the prisoner as long as he/she is in the custody and control of the Division.

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3. When standard restraints are not adequate to subdue an arrestee, fire/rescue may be utilized to transport subject for medical attention. At no time will prisoners be hog-tied (hands cuffed – legs shackled – then hands and feet tied together).
4. In some instances, restraining devices may not be used in connection with the non-criminal mentally ill except for the protection of the subject or others. If used, the selected restraining device(s) should restrain the prisoner securely without causing injury.
5. A female prisoner will not be handcuffed to a male prisoner unless an exigent circumstance exists.
6. A juvenile will not be handcuffed to an adult unless an exigent circumstance exists.
7. Officers will neither handcuff themselves to prisoners, nor use a single cuff as a “come-along”.
8. Prisoners will remain handcuffed until delivery inside the jail or holding facility, or until the official assuming custody requires otherwise.
9. The removing, transferring, switching or changing of restraints will be made within secure areas.
10. Prisoners will not be physically secured to the interior of a vehicle while in transit, except when, in the judgment of the transporting officer, the prisoner represents a danger to himself or others. This decision is to be approved by a supervisor except in an emergency or exigent circumstances.
11. Two prisoners will not be handcuffed with one pair of handcuffs, except under exigent circumstances.
12. Restraints will be applied and checked to ensure that they are sufficiently secure, but not so tight as to cause physical harm.
 - a. Handcuffs will be double-locked once they have been applied.
 - b. Flex-cuffs will be removed immediately upon arrival at a detention/holding facility and replaced with handcuffs, leg shackles or other suitable restraining device(s).

C. Prisoners at Hospitals

When a prisoner, in the custody of this Division, is taken to a hospital for treatment he/she will be restrained with the appropriate restraining device. Restraints may be removed for treatment only at the request of attending medical personnel. When handcuffs must be removed, leg shackles should be left on, if appropriate, so that the prisoner is not totally unrestrained. If, because of required treatment, neither of these devices can be used, an officer of the same sex as the prisoner will be present to guard the prisoner during the treatment.

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