

## CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Title:** *USE OF HANDCUFFS*

**Procedure:** 5.105

**Date Issued:**

**Revised:**

**PURPOSE:**

To provide for the security and welfare of prisoners.

To ensure the safety of police personnel and prevent escape.

**POLICY:**

Whenever an adult is placed under arrest, that person will be handcuffed and will remain so until confined at the station. Juveniles when placed under arrest, will be handcuffed with special consideration given to the age and size of the juvenile, the offense committed, the potential for escape, and the physical safety of the officer, public and juvenile.

Any exception to this is incumbent on the arresting officer knowing that a greater degree of cooperation can be achieved from a prisoner who is not handcuffed and the officer knows that the prisoner will not harm himself, poses no risk of escape, injury to the arresting officer, other officers, or the general public.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Handcuffs or flexcuffs will be applied with the prisoner's hands behind the back.

Apply cuffs only as tightly as needed to restrain and not so tightly as to cause injury.

The double lock mechanism will be used, whenever possible, to prevent tampering.

2. Juveniles will not be handcuffed to an adult prisoner.

3. Male prisoners will not be handcuffed to female prisoners.

4. Handcuffs may be applied to the wrists with the hands positioned in the front in some circumstances, such as:

the prisoner is physically incapable of placing his hands behind his back;

the prisoner is handicapped to the extent that placing his hands behind his back is unwarranted; or,

the prisoner is sick or injured to the extent that placing the hands behind the back would be impractical, exacerbate the illness or cause additional injury.

5. When two prisoners are handcuffed together it will be done by handcuffing right wrist to right wrist (or left to left) to limit mobility.

Male prisoners will not be handcuffed to female prisoners except when immediate movement from the scene is of primary importance.

Adults will not be handcuffed to juveniles (except as above).

6. Mentally ill persons will be handcuffed when behavior is unpredictable or past contact indicates a potential for violence. Use of handcuffs should be tactfully explained to the person and/or family member.

7. Persons handcuffed will be removed from public view in a safe manner.

8. Prisoners will not be handcuffed to any part of the transporting vehicle.