

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Title: *PRISONER TRANSPORTATION*

Procedure: 5.106

Date Issued:

Revised:

PURPOSE:

To ensure the safety of officers and prisoners.

To prevent the escape of prisoners in police custody.

POLICY:

The Police Department is responsible for the welfare and safety of its employees, persons in its custody and innocent citizens. This responsibility has been confirmed by Supreme Court rulings that agencies and individual officers are subject to civil and/or criminal liability if an employee, prisoner or innocent citizen is injured as a result of negligence or unwarranted excessive force. This responsibility should not be viewed casually. Officers will be alert and adhere to precautionary measures to reduce the probability of injury to employees and citizens and injury or escape of prisoners. Negligence or excessive force will constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

PROCEDURE:
SEARCHES

1. Officers shall inspect their vehicles at the beginning of each shift to ensure that their vehicles are free of illegal weapons and contraband, are mechanically safe, are free of damage or defect and that they are properly equipped.

2. The officer shall search the transporting vehicle for any illegal weapons, contraband, or evidence before and immediately after transporting any prisoner.

3. Prisoners shall be handcuffed according to department procedure 5.105.

4. Prisoners will be searched each time they come in to a transporting officer's custody. When searching a prisoner the following will apply:

Searches should be conducted by members of the same sex when feasible.

An officer may conduct a search of the outer garments of a member of the opposite sex, unless a threat to the officer's safety is suspected.

An officer may conduct an inventory search of the prisoner's property as outlined in department procedure 5.100.

Officers should exercise caution during searches to avoid contracting communicable diseases, parasites, or injury from hidden items such as needles, etc.

If an officer suspects that he may have been infected or is injured from contact with a prisoner, he will report it immediately to his supervisor and seek medical attention.

RESTRAINTS

1. Whenever an adult is placed under arrest, and is to be transported, that person will be handcuffed as outlined in department procedure 5.105.

2. Juveniles will be handcuffed in accordance with special consideration given to the juveniles' age and size, the offense committed, potential for escape, and the physical safety of the officer, public, and juvenile.

3. Mental patients, sick, injured or disabled prisoners should be restrained when necessary. The use of soft restraints may be used instead of handcuffs. Soft restraints are available.

4. Prisoners will be handcuffed with their hands in back and the cuffs double locked when possible. An officer has the discretion of handcuffing a prisoner with hands in front in certain situations such as age, obesity, physical impairment, or injury.

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

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

7. Juveniles will not be handcuffed to adults.

8. No prisoner will be "hog tied" or "hobbled".

PRISONER SEATING IN VEHICLE

1. All prisoners will be transported in a police vehicle under normal conditions. Any deviation from this must be approved by a Supervisor.

2. All prisoners will be seated in an upright position and secured with a seat belt to avoid injury and to eliminate the possibility of positional asphyxiation.

3. Provisions may be made for transportation in an ambulance of mental patients, sick, injured or disabled prisoners.

4. ONE PRISONER:
The prisoner will be placed in the passenger side of the rear seat, secured with the seat belt and the door locked. The transporting officer shall check that the rear door handle and window crank have been disabled so that the door will operate from the outside only.

When transporting prisoners of the opposite sex, the starting and ending mileage will be transmitted

through the radio to communications.

5. TWO PRISONERS:
When two prisoners are to be transported in a squad car, they will ride in the rear seat. Both prisoners will be secured with seat belts.

6. The only exception for not securing a prisoner with a seat belt would be an officer safety issue; i.e., the offender is so combative that it would put the officer's safety in jeopardy if he were to seat belt the prisoner in the vehicle.

TRANSPORT VEHICLE OPERATION

1. Transporting officers will not lose sight of the prisoners under their control.

2. Transporting officers may not engage in pursuit, high speed, or erratic driving while transporting prisoners.

3. Transporting officers shall not stop or cause a delay in the transportation of prisoners, and should only respond to a law enforcement need for a life threatening situation.

4. Requests by the prisoner to communicate with family, attorney, or use of a restroom while being transported will be denied until the destination has been reached.

5. In the event of a need to transport a prisoner for an extended period of time, such as in an extradition, the officer should:
Allow prisoners reasonable time to use toilet facilities without compromising security.

Select meal facilities, if required, at random.

PRISONER ESCAPE

1. Should an escape occur during transport, officers will:
Notify the communications center and the on duty Supervisor

Notify local units

Notify Maryland State Police and Dorchester County Sheriffs Department

Broadcast a physical and clothing description of the escapee, advising the last known direction of travel and charges against the escapee.

Make an effort, when possible, to recapture the escapee.

Have all the information regarding the escapee entered into law enforcement communications networks as may be appropriate.

Submit a written report explaining the details of the escape.

IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

1. Officers transporting prisoners to court or another detention facility should verify the identity of the prisoner. Booking records, photographs or fingerprint records of the prisoner should be used to confirm the persons to be transported.

2. The transporting officer shall be made aware of the potential security problems, including escape or suicidal tendencies, and this information shall be relayed upon delivering the prisoner to the proper security personnel.

3. When transporting a prisoner from one facility to another the officer shall, at the destination:

Secure his firearm.

Transfer custody to receiving officer.

Deliver all documents and prisoner property to receiving officer.

4. All rules in effect for security, at any facility, shall be adhered to by the transporting officer.

SPECIAL TRANSPORT SITUATION

1. Sick or injured prisoners requiring medical attention shall, whenever possible, be transported by ambulance. At least one

officer should be assigned to ride with the prisoner and provide security. Generally restraint devices shall be used unless they interfere with the medical treatment.

2. Whenever a prisoner is admitted to a hospital the officer will notify the on duty Supervisor. The on duty Supervisor will determine the need for continuing security at the hospital.

3. Elderly, physically and mentally disabled prisoners present conditions for their transport that dictate special care and attention. The safety of the prisoner and transporting officer requires due care when transporting disabled prisoners. Officer discretion shall be used in determining whether restraints are required. Officers should take into account the prisoners' mobility, strength and crime committed.

5. Transportation of mentally ill subjects shall be in accordance with procedure #4.407.