



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER: 1550
TOPIC: HANDCUFFS AND RESTRAINTS
ISSUED BY: JEFF BLIEMEISTER, CHIEF OF POLICE
DATE: 1-1-2020
SUPERSEDES: G.O. 1550, 2006
REFERENCE: NRS 47-1004

I. POLICY

All persons arrested and taken into custody by Lincoln police officers will be handcuffed, unless specifically excepted by this General Order. Officers will receive training on the use of handcuffs and restraints, and will exercise reasonable care in the use of these devices.

II. PROCEDURE

A. This General Order pertains to those persons who are arrested and taken into full custody to be lodged in jail or any other detention facility.

B. Use of Handcuffs (70.2.1)

1. Persons arrested and taken into custody will be handcuffed, unless they fall into one of the following exceptions, in which case handcuffing will be at the discretion of the officer:
 - a. Elderly, disabled, ill, or injured persons who do not represent an apparent risk to others and are incapacitated;
 - b. Juveniles under the age of 16 who do not represent an apparent risk to others, or risk of escape.
 - c. A person known to be pregnant who does not represent a substantial flight or security risk.
2. When possible, handcuffs will be applied behind the back, palms out, double locked.

C. Use of Other Restraints (70.2.1, 70.3.3)

1. Temporary devices such as flex-cuffs or cord-cuffs may be used when conventional handcuffs are unavailable or impractical.
2. A restraint cord may be used as a waist belt to secure handcuffs.
3. A restraint cord may be used as a leg restraint when the arrestee represents an escape risk, or is combative. When used as a leg restraint, the cord should be applied as a hobble at the ankles only.

4. When an arrestee represents an escape risk or is combative, leg irons, Velcro leg restraints, and tether straps may be used as an option for leg restraint. None of these devices may be attached to the handcuffs.

D. Medical Precautions (70.2.1)

1. Whenever a subject is restrained, any officer at the scene must be alert to medical implications relating to the restraint of the subject, particularly when his or her ability to move the limbs and change position is substantially impeded.
2. Subjects who are restrained may experience medical distress. Therefore, officers shall follow these guidelines:
 - a. If officers' body weight has been used to control a subject, relieve the weight as soon as safely possible.
 - b. Move the subject to an upright position as soon as safely possible.
 - c. Place the subject for transport in a position that does not impede the airway. Do not place the subject in the prone position.
 - d. Regularly observe the subject during transport.
 - e. Summon emergency medical assistance immediately if the subject displays any visible signs of medical distress, such as loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing, convulsions or tremors.
 - f. Remove the restraints as soon as it is safely possible.

E. Other Restraint Guidelines

1. The officer who has custody of a handcuffed person will double lock the handcuffs as soon as possible after application, and make adjustments if necessary to minimize the risk of injury.
2. If a restrained subject is transported by ambulance, an officer should ride in the ambulance with the subject.

3. Ordinarily, persons in restraints should not be left unsupervised, and should not be attached to vehicles or objects. Exceptions may arise in special circumstances.
4. If restraints are necessary for the transport or security of a pregnant person due to a substantial risk of flight or security, those restraints must be configured in the least restrictive manner necessary. Restraints are prohibited without exception during active labor or child birth.
 - a. Officers shall document the substantial risk of flight or security necessitating any use of any handcuffs or restraints.