

**Birmingham, Alabama
Police Department**



**Procedure No. 120-11
Topic: Temporary Restraining Devices**

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Purpose: To establish policy for use of temporary restraining devices (handcuffs, flexcuffs, maximal restraint devices, etc.) in order to prevent injury to the individual being restrained and officers restraining individuals.

I. Issue and Carrying

- A. All Birmingham Police Officers will be issued a standard pair of chain handcuffs.
- B. Peerless hinged handcuffs are acceptable but will not be standard issue.
- C. All handcuffs will be worn on the opposite side of the firearm in a regulation case.
- D. Only flexcuffs issued by Police Distribution are to be used by members of the Birmingham Police Department.
- E. The only approved hobble to be utilized by members of the Birmingham Police Department is that currently issued by Police Distribution.

II. Training

- A. All Birmingham Police Officers shall be trained in the use of temporary restraints by a certified instructor.
- B. Training in the use of temporary restraints shall be conducted every 2 years.
- C. The minimum time is eight (8) hours for basic training courses.

III. Handcuffs

A. Maintenance

1. All parts of the handcuffs will be maintained in good condition, especially the single bar and double lock actuator pin.
2. The single bar must pass freely between the double bar of the same handcuff.
3. The double lock actuator pin must activate smoothly when pin is pushed inward on the locking block.
4. The handcuff teeth must engage with the pawl in locking block.

B. Method

1. All "handcuffed" prisoners will be handcuffed with their hands behind their backs, in a palms outward position.
2. All handcuffs shall be "double-locked" for maximum security, before transporting any prisoner.
3. When transporting more than one prisoner, the escort officer may elect to handcuff prisoners with their hands in front and arms intertwining.
4. A prisoner is not to be handcuffed to any part of a vehicle, such as a doorpost.

C. Mandatory Use

1. Handcuffs shall be used in all cases (adult or juvenile) involving felonies and/or misdemeanors.
2. Handcuffs shall be used in transporting prisoners.
3. Two officers are required to transport any handcuffed prisoner in a vehicle without a shield in which case one officer will ride in the back seat of the police vehicle while the prisoner is being transported.
4. All handcuffs will be double locked on all prisoners immediately after they are arrested (before transporting), if the circumstances permit.
5. Exceptions:
 - a. When transporting sick, injured or handicapped prisoners, handcuffs may not be required due to the nature of the prisoner's condition.
 - b. Under these circumstances the officer may elect not to use handcuffs.

- c. Witnesses and/or persons not under arrest who merely have been invited to the police precinct or building will not normally be handcuffed.

D. Transporting Prisoners to the County Jail

1. Whenever prisoners are being transported from the City Jail to the County by the chain method, each prisoner shall have both wrists handcuffed and the handcuffs shall be double-locked.
2. Any unused handcuffs on the chain shall also be double-locked.

IV. Flexcuffs

In multiple arrest situations Officers may utilize flexcuffs to restrain subjects.

V. Maximal Restraining Devices (Hobble)

Additional restraint devices may be used to secure a prisoner who violently resists arrest or who manifests mental disorders such that they pose a threat to themselves, the public and officers. In such cases, a hobble (the only approved hobble is the one currently issued by Police Distribution) should be used and the officer should request a transport van or another officer to assist in the transport.

A. Method

1. To prevent a subject from kicking, Officers shall utilize the Total Appendage Restraint Procedure. This is accomplished by securing the feet with the hobble and attaching the brass snap to the chain of the handcuffs. The subject should then be positioned on his side.
2. To prevent a subject from running, secure the hobble just above the knees.

B. Do not leave a subject prone on the ground with pressure to their back for a prolonged period so as not to interfere with normal breathing.

C. Multiple officers should be utilized to place the subject in the transport vehicle in order to protect everyone involved.

1. Due to the possibility of "positional asphyxia," officers are prohibited from transporting prisoners in a facedown prone position when maximal restraints are used.

2. In the event that the transporting vehicle is a one man unit, a second officer shall be utilized during transport of the subject to allow for constant visual observation.
3. All injured persons are to be transported to Cooper Green Hospital. When prisoners report or display symptoms of serious injury or illness, paramedics will be called to the scene.

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