



DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Title: Transportation of Prisoners	Effective Date: June 28, 2016	Policy Number: 6.22
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Attachments:	L. Shane Nelson, Sheriff	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the transportation of all persons in custody of a Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputy.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office to take the precautions necessary while transporting prisoners to protect the lives and safety of the deputies, the public and the person in custody.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Vehicle Inspection

1. At the beginning and end of each shift, all vehicles regularly used for prisoner transport shall be inspected for readiness as follows:
 - a. the safety screen shall be securely in place, locked, and undamaged;
 - b. all windows shall be intact and outer door latches in proper working order;
 - c. rear seat door handles and window controls should be deactivated; and
 - d. the interior shall be thoroughly searched to ensure that no weapons or contraband have been left or hidden within the vehicle.
2. Prior to placing a prisoner in the vehicle for transport, the transporting deputy shall again inspect the interior for weapons or contraband. The vehicle shall be searched again after the prisoner has been delivered to the detention facility or other destination.

B. Restraints

1. Deputies shall handcuff (double-locked) all prisoners with their hands behind their backs to prevent unnecessary injury and escape.
2. The deputy may handcuff the prisoner with his hands in front or utilize other appropriate restraining devices when the prisoner:
 - a. is in an obvious state of pregnancy;
 - b. has a physical disability; or
 - c. has injuries that could be aggravated by standard handcuffing procedures.

3. Prisoners shall not be handcuffed or secured to any part of the vehicle during transport. (This does not apply to seat belt and shoulder harness systems.)
4. Additional approved restraint devices may be used to secure a prisoner who violently resists arrest or who manifests mental disorders or intoxication such that he poses a threat to himself or to the public:
 - a. Flex-Cuffs may be used when handcuffs are not available or are ineffective. Flex-Cuffs may also be used to secure the feet and legs of a kicking prisoner.
 - b. An agency-approved hobble may be used to secure the feet and legs of a kicking prisoner. Hobbles may be secured by shutting one end in the patrol car door. At no time shall a prisoner's hands and feet be tied together behind his back, also known as "hog-tied."
 - c. Agency-furnished leg cuffs may be used to limit a prisoner's leg movement and, hence, his ability to run.
 - d. Agency-furnished belly chains may be used to limit a prisoner's ability to use his hands and arms.

C. Positioning and Securing Prisoners in the Patrol/Transport Vehicle

1. The deputy should use care when assisting a prisoner into the vehicle for transport.
2. The security screen/window shall be closed and locked in all transporting vehicles prior to placement of a prisoner.
3. Prisoners should not be left unattended in the vehicle; however, if a deputy must divide his attention between the prisoner and others at a scene, the vehicle shall not be running and keys shall be removed from the vehicle.
4. Prisoners shall be transported in the following manner:
 - a. Where the vehicle has a security screen, but only one transporting deputy, the prisoner shall be placed in the back seat, preferably in the right hand side of the vehicle. When the vehicle is not equipped with a security screen and has only one transporting deputy, the prisoner shall be placed in the right front seat with the seatbelt secured for added security and safety.
 - b. When a prisoner is being transported in a two-deputy vehicle without a security screen, the prisoner shall be placed in the right rear seat. The second deputy shall sit in the left rear seat behind the driver.
5. A deputy shall not attempt to transport more than one prisoner in a vehicle without a security barrier but shall request transport assistance.
6. Prisoners are not required to be in seat belts or shoulder harnesses other than specified above. However, prisoners should be secured in the vehicle by such devices, if practical.

D. Transport

1. Prior to transport, all prisoners shall be thoroughly searched for any weapons or tools of escape.
 - a. If practical, the protective search should be conducted by a deputy of the same gender as the prisoner.
 - b. The transporting deputy should search the prisoner, unless a search was conducted in his presence.
2. When transporting prisoners, the deputy shall provide 9-1-1 Dispatch with the following information when possible:
 - a. Identity of the prisoner;
 - b. Arrest location and destination of transport.
3. Prisoners shall not be left unattended during transport.
4. Prisoners shall not be transported in any vehicles other than Sheriff's Office vehicles, unless in dire emergency or upon receipt of authorization from a supervisor.

5. Prisoners shall not be permitted to smoke or to have lighters or matches while in restraints and while being transported.
6. While transporting the prisoner, deputies shall not stop at any location to visit or to make purchases or phone calls for himself or for the prisoner. The deputy may stop and render assistance only if there is a dire emergency, as such stops may put both the deputy and the prisoner at risk.
7. When transporting a person of the opposite gender of the deputy, the starting and ending mileage shall be given to the dispatcher.
8. When transporting prisoners between facilities, the transporting deputy shall possess pertinent information regarding the prisoner. This may include:
 - a. Potential escape risk;
 - b. Potential suicide risk;
 - c. Potential medical needs;
 - d. Commitment papers;
 - e. Governor's warrant or waiver;
 - f. Transport orders.

E. Escape Procedure

In the event a prisoner escapes while being transported, the deputy shall do the following:

1. Immediately notify 9-1-1 Dispatch of the escape, including a description of the suspect;
2. Evaluate the situation and use discretion before pursuing the suspect alone;
3. Notify the immediate supervisor of the situation and initiate steps to locate the suspect;
4. If the suspect is apprehended, complete a detailed report and forwarded to the supervisor and the division commander; and
5. If the suspect is not apprehended, complete a detailed report and submit to the DA's Office for a warrant request.

F. Security Hazard

Any deputies transporting prisoners who are security hazards, i.e., violent or an escape risk, will take extra precautions as necessary. Written documentation identifying the prisoner as a potential security hazard will accompany the prisoner during the transport. The deputy will notify the judge, via court security, either prior to or upon arrival in court that the prisoner is a hazard.

G. Preventing a Prisoner from Spitting

A spit mask supplied by the Sheriff's Office may be used to prevent a prisoner from spitting on another person.

1. The spit mask will be stored in each patrol unit. The masks will be disposed of after each use. Replacement spit masks may be obtained from the automotive shop.
2. The spit mask will only be used when the prisoner indicates intentions to spit, attempts to spit, or spits on another person.
3. The spit mask shall be removed from the prisoner at the earliest opportunity after the threat of spitting has ceased.
4. If the prisoner must walk with the spit mask over his head, the deputy will escort him to avoid injury.

H. Correctional Facility Procedure

1. Upon arrival at a correctional facility, deputies will secure their firearms in the lock boxes provided for such use prior to entry into the secure, intake area of the facility.

2. Proper documentation is necessary at the time of booking, such as a copy of the warrant(s), warrant confirmations, probable cause statements and victim assistance information.
3. The transporting deputy shall document in a report the name of the official receiving custody of the prisoner(s).
4. The transporting deputy shall advise receiving personnel of any potential medical or security hazards.
5. Upon approval of the receiving official, restraining devices will be removed just prior to prisoner placement in a cell. Some facilities, such as the Deschutes County Adult Jail, authorize only corrections personnel to remove restraining devices and the placement of prisoners in the appropriate cell.

IV. TRANSPORT OF PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED PRISONERS

Deputies transporting physically or mentally disabled prisoners shall make any special arrangements necessary for the transport.

1. If it is necessary to transport medicine or special items, they will be transported in a place inaccessible to the prisoner.
2. Any wheelchairs, crutches, prosthetic devices, and medication should be transported with, but not in the possession of, the prisoner. If the deputy is transporting a device in which weapons or contraband could be hidden, the deputy will check the device prior to transport.
3. If the prisoner is non-ambulatory and cannot be transported in an agency vehicle, the deputy may request an ambulance for transport. The deputy will accompany the prisoner in the ambulance.

V. TRANSPORTATION OF SICK OR INJURED PRISONERS

Whenever hospitalization is necessary for a sick or injured person who is under arrest, the arresting deputy must report the situation to a supervisor as soon as possible.

A. Critically Injured Prisoners

1. If a prisoner is critically injured and the need for a dying declaration is present, the deputy shall accompany the prisoner in the ambulance.
2. Prisoners who are unconscious or who have a serious illness or injury shall be transported to the hospital by ambulance. Deputies shall accompany the ambulance to the hospital and will remain on prisoner guard duty until properly relieved. At the request of ambulance personnel or if the prisoner constitutes a risk of violence or escape, deputies may accompany the prisoner in the ambulance.

B. Sick or Injured Prisoners Requiring Hospitalization

1. Prisoners with minor illness or injury requiring hospital treatment may be transported to the hospital in a patrol unit with supervisory approval.
2. Prisoners with injuries which require transportation to the hospital in an ambulance shall be handled as in "A" above, with the deputy providing constant prisoner guard until properly relieved.

C. Minor Injuries

1. Prisoners whose illness or injury can be treated with first aid may be transported directly to the Deschutes County Adult Jail.

The Deschutes County Adult Jail, upon the transport deputy's arrival, may accept the prisoner or require the transport deputy to transport the prisoner for medical treatment prior to incarceration. In the latter case, the transport deputy shall handle the transport as in "A" above, with the deputy providing constant prisoner guard until properly relieved.