

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SECURING AND TRANSPORTING PERSONS IN CUSTODY

Reviewed by: Lt. Paul Williams	Effective Date: May 15, 1996
Authorized by: Interim Chief Greg Scott	Revision Date: December 21, 2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to prescribe the methods to be used for securing custodies, or persons detained for an investigatory stop, and their safe transport.

PROCEDURE

VEHICLE PREPARATION

1. At the beginning of shift, the assigned squad should be searched by the officer. This search is intended to ensure that no contraband has been left in the vehicle during a prior transport. Areas searched are those areas that an individual could have placed contraband.
2. At the beginning of shift, each officer should ensure the assigned squad has a pair of leg shackles. Each marked squad car should have a pair of leg shackles in the trunk area. If the leg shackles are missing, the on-duty supervisor should be notified, and an equipment replacement request made. Supervisory approval is necessary to utilize a marked squad car without leg shackles.
3. Prior to transport, the area around where the custody will sit should be searched to confirm no contraband is present.
4. Prior to placing the custody into the squad for transport, the custody should be properly searched. This search should be completed by the transport officer even if the custody has been searched by another officer.
5. Upon securing the custody at the end of a transport, the vehicle should again be fully searched before going back into service. Any contraband located can be documented for possible charges.

USE OF HANDCUFFS

All custodies should be handcuffed prior to being transported. Subjects should be handcuffed with their hands behind the back unless there is an injury or handicap which would prevent this.

If, due to an injury or handicap, a custody needs to be handcuffed in front, extra precautions must be taken. Officers should utilize one of the department's leather restraint belts, with a ring, to secure the custodies' hands. Each command vehicle, as well as the department's transport

van, is equipped with one of these belts. In most cases, the department's transport van should be utilized for the transport of custodies.

In all cases when handcuffs are applied, the double lock should be activated to prevent any injury to the custody due to the handcuffs tightening down. The officer should verify the cuffs are not too tight by placing a finger between the locked cuff hasp and the wrist of the custody.

USE OF LEG RESTRAINTS

If the custody is kicking, the department's transport van should be utilized for this transport. Metal leg shackles should be properly applied to the custody before placement in the van if possible.

In all cases when leg shackles are applied, the double lock should be activated to prevent any injury to the custody due to the leg shackles tightening down. The officer should verify the leg shackles are not too tight by placing a finger between the locked cuff hasp and the ankle of the custody.

If the department's van is not available, although less desirable, one of the following methods may be used to secure the custody with the use of nylon leg restraints:

Rear Seat Application: More than one officer should be utilized to control the custody. The custody should be placed on the ground and restrained. Officers should restrain the custody and force their legs together. The nylon leg restraint should be applied snugly to the custodies' ankles. Once applied, the custody should be placed in the back seat of the squad car. The custodies' feet should be placed on the floorboard. The loose end of the restraint should be pulled out of the bottom of the door nearest where the custody is sitting. The officer should ensure that the restraint does not dangle outside the rear door in order to prevent it from catching on something once the squad starts moving. Upon reaching the intended destination, the restraint can be brought up to the knee and secured to the handcuffed area of the unruly individual, thereby forcing them to pay more attention to their balance than to the officer. The officer should help the subject walk, especially when climbing or descending stairs; however, stairs should be avoided when possible.

Front Seat Application: Only with the approval of an on-duty supervisor should a violent custody be transported in the front seat of a squad. If the supervisor approves, the same method of application should be followed as was outlined in the paragraphed titled "Rear Seat Application".

CUSTODY TRANSPORT

1. One custody
 - a. In a "caged" squad, the transported custody will be placed in the rear seat of the vehicle and properly secured with the seat belt.
 - b. In a one-officer squad (no "cage"), the custody should be placed in the front seat and properly secured with the seat belt.

- c. In a two-officer squad, the custody should be placed in the back seat, on the passenger's side, with the second officer in the back seat on the driver's side. The custody should be properly secured with the seat belt.
2. Two custodies
 - a. If a one-officer squad has two custodies, a second squad shall be called to assist with transportation
 - b. In a two-officer squad, one custody should be placed in the front seat. The other custody should be placed in the rear passenger seat with the second officer seated in the driver's side rear seat. Seat belts should be used.
 - c. When more than two custodies are to be transported, additional squads should be called to assist with transportation. If time and manpower permit, the arresting officer may request that the custody transport vehicle be brought to the scene.
 - d. When transporting custodies of the opposite gender as the officer, or a juvenile, the officer shall give the location from which the custody is to be transported and the odometer reading prior to departing the scene. The odometer reading shall also be given immediately upon arrival at the intended destination.
 - e. In the event a custody is unruly the custody transport van should be utilized. An acceptable, although less desirable, option would be for two officers to ride in the transport vehicle. The second officer should advise the station that they are leaving a squad and should give the location. The squad should be secured, and any equipment should be placed in the trunk. The squad should be picked up as soon as possible.

ENHANCED-RISK CUSTODY TRANSPORT

Some custodies present an enhanced transportation risk. Extra security measures shall be utilized to ensure maximum safety for the transporting officers, the custody, and the general public.

1. Factors creating enhanced transportation risks.
 - a. Custodies facing Murder, Attempted Murder and other Class X felonies shall be deemed an enhanced risk.
 - b. Other serious pending charges may be considered in determining when an enhanced risk is present.
 - c. Custodies that have previously tried to escape from custody shall be deemed an enhanced risk.
 - d. Custodies that have assaulted officers, either in the instant situation or during previous instance(s), may be deemed an enhanced risk.
 - e. Custodies under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol may present an enhanced risk.
 - f. Additional relevant facts or circumstances may be evaluated by the officer when considering whether an enhanced risk is present. This is not an all-inclusive list.
2. Transport of enhanced-risk custodies.
 - a. Absent exigent circumstances, a minimum of two officers shall be used to transport all enhanced-risk custodies. This includes transporting the custody from the police department to the hospital, from the police department to the jail, etc.

- b. Metal leg shackles shall be used for all enhanced-risk custody transports.
- c. The police department's transport van shall be utilized, whenever possible, to transport an enhanced-risk custody. If the van is not available, a supervisor must be consulted for direction prior to transportation.
- d. If the enhanced-risk custody is transported in an ambulance, at least one officer shall ride inside the ambulance with the custody.
- e. Additional security measures may be utilized if the on-duty supervisor approves.
- f. A supervisor's approval shall be required to deviate from the guidelines established for the transportation of an enhanced-risk custody.

CUSTODIES AT THE HOSPITAL

The on-duty supervisor should be notified whenever a custody is taken to the hospital.

Considerations for custodies at the hospital.

- a. At least one officer shall be present whenever a custody is in the hospital.
- b. Custodies shall not be left alone in the hospital without supervisory approval.
- c. Officer's body worn cameras shall remain on, and recording, when guarding a custody at the hospital.
- d. Unless there is a medical reason not to, handcuffs or wrist restraints shall be utilized, and not removed, from the custody while at the hospital.
- e. Leg shackles may be utilized in the hospital.
- f. Custodies shall not have visitors in the hospital without supervisory approval.
- g. If a custody will be at the hospital for an extended length of time, or admitted, the transporting officer shall notify the on-duty supervisor. See SOP 5.02 Persons in custody.

Enhanced-risk custodies at the hospital.

- a. Absent exigent circumstances, before an enhanced-risk custody is transported to the hospital, a supervisor shall be notified.
- b. Absent exigent circumstances, an on-duty supervisor shall respond to the hospital to ensure all safety and transportation protocols are being followed for the enhanced-risk custody.
- c. Enhanced-risk custodies shall not be left alone in the hospital without supervisory approval.
- d. Officer's body worn cameras shall remain on, and recording, when guarding an enhanced-risk custody at the hospital.
- e. Unless there is a medical reason not to, handcuffs or wrist restrains shall be utilized and not removed from the enhanced-risk custody while at the hospital.
- f. Unless there is a medical reason not to, leg shackles shall be utilized and not removed from the enhanced-risk custody while at the hospital.
- g. A minimum of two officers shall be present when an enhanced-risk custody is in the hospital. There shall be no exceptions to this rule unless approved by a lieutenant or chief.
- h. Enhanced-risk custodies shall not have visitors in the hospital without supervisory approval.
- i. Additional security measures may be utilized if the on-duty supervisor approves.

CUSTODY ESCAPE

In the event of a custody escape, the following steps shall occur:

1. The transporting officer shall immediately notify Bloomington Dispatch, via the primary radio channel, of the situation.
2. Bloomington Dispatch will immediately notify the shift supervisor of the situation.
3. The transporting officer will put out description information (name of subject, clothing description, and last verified location of the subject) as well as possible charges over the primary radio channel.
4. All available officers will respond to the area and assist.
5. Bloomington Dispatch will notify METCOM and the Illinois State Police Dispatch to relay this information.
6. The shift supervisor will be responsible for determining whether any further actions or additional resources (assistance of other jurisdictions, establishing command center, etc.) will be needed.
7. The Assistant Chief of Operations shall be notified.
8. The transporting officer shall prepare a written police report detailing the escape-
9. SOP 4.08 establishes the Departmental Review Board. All custody escapes may be reviewed by the Board.