

7.03
CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of Chief of Police
General Order

Date Issued: December 1, 1998 **Revision Date:** September 21, 2006
Subject: **Handcuffing and Restraints** **Reference:** CACP STD.180.2
To: All Officers

I POLICY:

The responsibility of an officer for the safe custody of his/her prisoner permits some discretion in the use of handcuffs and restraining devices. See also [Order 7.06](#), Prisoner Transports. However, as a general rule, the safety of the officers and others is of primary importance, and officers are encouraged to handcuff all arrestees unless there are mitigating circumstances such as injuries, disabilities, consideration of prisoner's age, etc.

II. PROCEDURES:

A. Handcuffs:

1. Detained subjects will be handcuffed when the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe that their use is necessary for the safety of the arrested person, the officer, or other persons.
 - a. Handcuffs shall be used when transporting all prisoners charged with or suspected of committing a felony.
 - b. It is at the officer's discretion whether or not to handcuff the following persons:
 - i. Those arrested for minor non-dangerous misdemeanors, especially in cases, which officers have some reason to believe, that handcuffing might cause additional harm to a pre-existing injury.
 - ii. Any juveniles under 13 years of age, or elderly persons who are not detained for assaultive behavior.
2. Officers shall handcuff a subject with the hands in back, except an officer may choose to handcuff hands in front due to the suspect's deformity, injury or disability.
3. When a suspect is handcuffed, the cuffs shall be double locked to help insure prisoner and officer safety.
4. The officer should inform the arrested person that any resistance or unnecessary movement might cause discomfort not ordinarily associated with the application of handcuffs. To avoid risk of permanent injury, the officer may loosen or remove the

handcuffs of any prisoner in unusually severe pain because of the handcuffs. The officer should then consider other measures of restraint, including body belts, the use of plastic handcuffs, soft restraints, handcuffing the person in front, but through a belt loop or belt to further restrict movement, or other reasonable measures to restrain the arrested person's hand movements.

5. A prisoner shall not be handcuffed to any part of the vehicle, such as a doorpost.

B. Ankle Shackles/Hobbles:

Ankle shackles or hobbles may be used by officers when transporting any prisoner they have reason to believe might be an escape risk, is kicking at officers, or is attempting to damage the patrol vehicle.

C. Plastic Handcuffs:

Plastic handcuffs may be used when officers take into custody several prisoners or when a prisoner requires multiple restraints. Officers must understand that, once applied, plastic handcuffs generally can only be removed with pair of snips.

D. Soft Restraints:

Soft Velcro restraints may be used when an officer takes into custody a juvenile, or a passively resistant subject whom the officer reasonably believes will remain passive. Any officer who has not been trained in the proper application of the restraint device cannot use the soft restraints.

NOTE: Under no circumstances may an officer use a restraint, or apply a restraint in such a manner that would allow or cause serious bodily injury and/or death to the arrested person. If necessary, additional officers may be required for the sole purpose of transporting a violent prisoner.

The use of Hog-Ties or Hog Tying, (any method of connecting ankle hobbles to handcuffs) as defined by the 10th Circuit Court (any method of connecting the two which is less than 24" in length) is prohibited. Hobbling is defined as a connection between the hobbles and handcuffs that is in excess of 24" from the wrist to the ankle. Hobbling is permitted only by trained officers using those restraints specifically approved or issued by the department.

Approved By:

**Walter K. Vanatta
Chief of Police**