


PINE BLUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

	SUBJECT:	POLICY NUMBER 252
	PHYSICAL RESTRAINTS	ISSUE DATE 02/19/2008
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	ISSUED By: Chief of Police John E. Howell	TOTAL PAGES 2

I. **PURPOSE**

This policy is to establish guidelines for the use of handcuffs and restraining devices.

II. **POLICY**

The responsibility of an officer for the safe custody of their prisoner permits some discretion in the use of handcuffs and restraining devices.

III. **PROCEDURES**

A. **HANDCUFFS**

1. Normally, handcuffs will be used in transporting all prisoners arrested or charged with a felony or misdemeanor unless extenuating circumstances exist.
2. Officers may elect to handcuff a subject with the hands in front or back, depending on:
 - a. The subject's state of mind and degree of cooperation.
 - b. Physical resistance exerted by the subject.
 - c. Availability of protective screens in the transporting vehicle.
 - d. When a suspect is handcuffed, use of the "double lock" will help insure prisoner and officer safety. The "double lock" device is normally located directly above the keyhole on the locking mechanism of the bracelet and can be locked by inserting a pointed object (back of handcuff key, e.g. pen, pencil) in the lock and pushing down. Double locking reduces chance of picking lock or of bracelet accidentally closing further restricting circulation.

3. **BODY BELT:** The body belt allows the officer to handcuff the prisoner in front yet restricts the movement of the prisoner's arms and hands. Normally, this device will be used when transporting prisoners a considerable distance.
4. **ANKLE SHACKLES:**
 - a. Ankle shackles shall be used by officers when transporting any prisoners they have reason to believe might be an escape risk, or being transported a considerable distance.
 - b. If in the course of an arrest the subject becomes violent and reasonably endangers the safety of others by their actions the officer may use a soft nylon leg restraint to secure the prisoner's feet.
5. **GENERAL RULES**
 - a. A female prisoner shall not be handcuffed to a male prisoner except in an emergency.
 - b. A juvenile shall not be handcuffed to an adult except in an emergency.
 - c. Officers shall neither handcuff themselves to prisoners nor use a single cuff as a "come-along".
 - d. Officers shall not handcuff prisoners to a fixed object except in an emergency.
 - e. When handcuffs are used, officers shall maintain physical control over the handcuffed prisoner by securely holding onto the prisoner while he is being transported on foot.
 - f. Prisoners shall remain handcuffed until delivered inside the jail or place of confinement.
 - g. A prisoner shall not be physically secured to the interior of a vehicle or aircraft while in transit except when, in the judgment of the transporting officer, the prisoner represents a danger to himself or others.
 - h. The policies of certain commercial airlines prohibit prisoners to be handcuffed during flight. However, transporting officers shall re-handcuff prisoners upon arrival at airside and prior to deplaning if this practice is not in conflict with airline policy. Otherwise the prisoner shall be handcuffed immediately upon deplaning.
 - i. Pregnant women should not be handcuffed unless they present a risk to the safety of the arresting officer(s) or others.