

Oakland County Sheriff's Office
General Order # 5.1



SUBJECT: Transportation of Prisoners – Law Enforcement		NUMBER: 5.1
EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/1/2023 REVIEW DATE: Annually	MACP Standard Impact: 5.1.1 and 5.1.2	
REPLACES AND RESCINDS: Policy and Procedure 011	DISTRIBUTION: All Personnel	NUMBER OF PAGES: 4

This order replaces and rescinds all previously issued orders, procedures, rules and regulations, notices and/or practices in conflict with this General Order. For purposes of this Order the term prisoner also applies to an arrestee.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for transporting persons in the custody of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office between the point of arrest and initial booking.

II. POLICY

Transporting prisoners is a potentially dangerous function. Therefore, it is the policy of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office to take necessary precautions while transporting prisoners to protect the lives and safety of deputies, the public and the person in custody.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Vehicle Inspection (MACP Standard 5.1.1 a)

1. At the beginning and end of each tour of duty, all vehicles regularly used for prisoner transport shall be inspected for readiness as follows:
 - a. The safety screen shall be securely in place and undamaged.
 - b. All windows shall be intact and the outer door latches in proper working order.
 - c. Rear-seat door handles and window controls shall be deactivated.
 - d. The interior shall be thoroughly searched to ensure that no weapons or contraband have been left behind or hidden within the vehicle.

B. Prior to Vehicle Transport (MACP Standard 5.1.1 b)

1. Prior to placing a prisoner in the vehicle for transport, the transporting deputy shall 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.

C. Handcuffing/Use of Restraints (MACP Standard 5.1.1 d)

1. Subjects shall be handcuffed behind their backs unless medical injuries or circumstances require the subject to be handcuffed in front. The reason the subject was handcuffed in the front shall be documented in the incident report (e.g., pregnant females).

Oakland County Sheriff's Office
General Order # 5.1

2. In all cases, cuffs shall be checked for proper clearance and shall be double-locked.
3. Deputies may use discretion in handcuffing young juveniles but shall use authorized restraints necessary to control unruly or potentially violent juveniles of any age.
4. Prisoners shall not be handcuffed to any part of the vehicle during transport.
5. Additional approved restraint devices may be used to secure a prisoner while transporting to court or who violently resists arrest or who manifests mental disorders such that he/she poses a threat to him/herself or to the public. Approved restraint devices include: **(MACP Standard 5.1.1 f)**
 - a. Belly Chains
 - b. Ankle Cuffs
6. After applying restraints and once the incident is under control, deputies shall ensure the subject is placed and remains in an upright or side position that will prevent positional asphyxiation in accordance with training.

D. Transport

1. All vehicles of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office routinely used for the transportation of prisoners have been modified to minimize opportunities for exit of a prisoner without the aid of a deputy. Deputies should utilize these vehicles for transport of prisoners whenever possible. **(MACP Standard 5.1.2)**
2. Prior to transport, all prisoners shall be thoroughly searched for any weapons or contraband. **(MACP Standard 5.1.1 c)**
 - a. The transporting officer shall search the prisoner regardless of searches that may or may not have been conducted by arresting deputies or other transporting members of law enforcement.
 - b. Where available, a magnetometer may also be used in addition to a hand search.
3. Females shall not be handcuffed to male arrestees and should normally be separated during transport.
 - a. Juveniles shall not be transported in the same vehicle with adult prisoners.
4. Special precautions shall be employed when transporting high-risk prisoners, in particular:
 - a. Belly chains or Waist chains with handcuffs should be employed along with leg shackles.
 - b. Persons or members of groups known to be hostile to each other should not be transported together.
 - c. Combative prisoners should not be transported together.
5. Prior to initiating the transport, the deputy shall provide communications with the following information by radio or, if out of radio range, by telephone:
 - a. Arrest location and destination of transport
 - b. Time and mileage readings before and after transport of a prisoner who is of the opposite sex of the transporting deputy.
 - c. Such notification shall be made over a radio or phone that will be recorded by the Sheriff's Office communication electronic recording system.
 - d. The deputy should use care when assisting a prisoner into the vehicle for transport.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office
General Order # 5.1

6. The deputy shall require that all prisoners use the equipped seatbelt restraints during transport whenever possible. If the prisoner is combative and has been restrained in a manner that will not allow the use of a seatbelt, officers may use their discretion.
(MACP Standard 5.1.1 e)
 - a. All child passengers transported for any reason, as an arrestee or otherwise, deputies shall utilize the proper child safety seat if applicable.
7. Prisoners shall be transported in a manner that allows for constant visual observation. Seating of deputies and prisoners should conform to the following:
 - a. Where the vehicle has a security screen but only one transporting deputy, the prisoner shall be placed in the right rear seat of the vehicle.
 - b. When the vehicle is not equipped with a security screen and has only one transporting deputy, the prisoner shall be handcuffed and placed in the right rear seat.
 - c. 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 officer shall sit in the left rear seat behind the driver.
 - d. Leg restraints may be used when a deputy believes the prisoner has a potential for violent behavior.
 - e. One transporting deputy should not attempt to transport more than one prisoner in a vehicle without a security barrier but should request transport assistance.
8. If a transporting deputy has reasonable cause to believe the prisoner has swallowed any controlled substance to conceal it from discovery by law enforcement, the prisoner shall be transported directly to an emergency room for the purpose of medical clearance for incarceration.
 - a. A prisoner's denial of having swallowed a controlled substance does not release deputies from this requirement.
9. The physical well-being of prisoners shall be monitored during transit. Particular attention shall be directed to persons reported or suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol or who have a history of or propensity for violence.
 - a. Prisoners who report/display symptoms of serious illness during transit shall be taken to the nearest hospital for treatment.
 - b. Transporting deputies shall remain with the patient at all times unless relieved by other authorized personnel.
 - c. Potentially violent persons in custody shall be restrained at all times in the treatment facility unless such restraint interferes with essential treatment.
 - d. If a transport unit goes to a medical treatment facility, deputies shall notify Communications of their location and reason for hospital transport as soon as possible.
 - e. If a transport unit goes to a medical treatment facility, deputies shall notify the on-duty supervisor.
10. Symptoms or reports of physical or mental illness (such as threats of suicide or psychotic behavior) shall be reported to the booking deputy and documented in the deputy's report.
11. Any wheelchairs, crutches, prosthetic devices or medication should be transported with, but not in the possession of, the prisoner.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office
General Order # 5.1

12. Prisoners shall not be left unattended during transport.
13. Where equipped, the back seat in-car video camera shall be used to record the prisoner while being transported.
14. Deputies shall not engage in enforcement activities while transporting prisoners unless failure to act would risk death or serious bodily injury to another. In non-life-threatening yet serious situations, deputies should call for back-up assistance and must remain on-hand until such assistance has arrived.
15. Any escape shall be immediately reported to Communications with a complete description of the fugitive, mode and direction of travel, crime and propensity for violence if known.

E. Airports

1. When it is necessary for the Sheriff's Office to take a prisoner on an Airline, all FAA and/or Airline policies shall be followed. At the earliest possible opportunity, the transporting deputies shall revert to the accepted Sheriff's Office Standards.



ISSUED BY: Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard