

## DIRECTIVE 70.2 RESTRAINING DEVICES

<b>Issue Date: 05/14/2020</b>	<b>By Order of Chief of Police</b>
<b>Rescinds: (Issue 08/20/2015) Pages: 3</b>	<b>CALEA Standards Referenced: 70.2.1</b>

**This directive consists of the following sections:**

### **[70.2.1 Detainee Restraint Methods](#)**

#### **POLICY AND PROCEDURE:**

It is the policy of the Miami Township Police Department that all prisoners shall be restrained with appropriate devices that provide for the safety of the officer and the safety of the prisoner while being transported except as provided in this directive.

### **[70.2.1 Detainee Restraint Methods](#)**

Every prisoner transported shall be secured in handcuffs with the handcuffs double locked. Prisoners shall be handcuffed with prisoners' hands behind their back except in the following circumstances:

- The transporting officer may choose in limited circumstances not to handcuff a prisoner's hands behind their back. In these cases, the prisoner hands shall be handcuffed in front of their waist with an alternate restraining device. The exceptions to handcuffing a prisoner behind the back will be limited to the following:
  - Prisoners who are crippled or otherwise physically incapacitated and incapable of escape or placing their hands behind their back.
  - Elderly, ill or pregnant persons arrested for minor offenses.
  - Any other reason that a person is physically incapable of placing their hands behind their back.

No prisoner is to be handcuffed to any part of the transporting vehicle, except in exigent circumstances where no other alternative exists. If such an incident should arise it shall be documented in writing with the prisoner's arrest report.

When a prisoner may pose a significant threat to themselves and/or the transporting officer and upon approval of a supervisor, prisoners may be restrained with department issued and approved restraining devices, i.e. hobble restraint, red man helmet. These devices shall be used only in such manner as not to cause harm or injury to the prisoner. When any additional or alternate restraining devices are used on a prisoner, the use of

such devices will be documented in the narrative of the offense report. If a hobble restraint is used on a prisoner, the officer needs to complete a Use of Force report.

Officers shall be cognizant of preventing lethal positions, i.e. Positional Asphyxia. Positional asphyxia refers to a situation where there is compromise of respiration because of splinting of the chest and/or diaphragm preventing normal respiratory excursion, or occlusion of the upper airway due to abnormal positioning of the body. (Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, October 2008). Officers must be aware of potentially dangerous restraint positions that need to be avoided during custodial arrest and transportation.

Positional asphyxia can occur when the prisoner's chest is restricted from expanding properly or when the position of the prisoner's head obstructs the airway.

Officers shall avoid putting weight on a restricted person's back, such as with their knee, for a prolonged period. This practice adds stress to the respiratory muscles and inhibits movement of the diaphragm and rib cage.

If temporary prone positioning is required for control, the prisoner must be closely and constantly monitored. Officers shall be aware of any obvious physical disabilities, mental state, or the possibility the person is under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

During transport of a restrained prisoner utilizing the hobble restraint, the prisoner shall be placed on their side in the rear of the vehicle.

During transports of a restrained detainee, any sudden cessation of verbal communication or unusual quietness should be checked as a possible medical distress. Monitor the person by watch the three ABC's: Airway, Breathing and Circulation.

- Airway – The path is free of obstruction and allows the flow of air to the lungs.
- Breathing – Air flows to and from the lungs.
- Circulation – A heartbeat and pulse are present.

Many factors contribute to a person's susceptibility to positional asphyxia. There is an increased risk for positional asphyxia if one or more of the following indicators are present:

- Alcohol Intoxication
- Drugs (Especially Cocaine and other Controlled Substances)
- Physical Ailments (Obesity, Chest Deformity)
- Delirium, Bizarre or Frenzied Behavior (Mental Disease, Psychosis, Schizophrenia, Drug Intoxication)
- Respiratory Diseases (Asthma, Emphysema)

Although officers have no reason to expect death to result from restraining a person, the possibility exists. By exercising caution and common sense, the potential for in-custody deaths from positional asphyxia will be lessened.

Every prisoner in a police vehicle will be secured with a seatbelt. The only exception to this is if an officer feels he may be injured by a violent prisoner during the placement of the seatbelt or the use of alternate restraining devices prohibits the use.

At times, Miami Township Police Department officers transport prisoners who display behavior and/or threats of harm that require transport to Clermont Mercy Hospital for evaluation. Mentally disturbed persons may pose a significant threat to themselves and/or the transporting officers. In these cases, the following shall apply:

- The persons shall be restrained securely but not in a manner that may tend to cause harm to the person.
- If the person is violent, the supervisor may authorize a second officer to assist the transporting officer by either following the vehicle or riding inside the vehicle.
- When it appears that a person's violent or bizarre behavior may constitute a risk of harm to themselves or to others, the persons may be transported in restraints on a stretcher in an EMS vehicle. This method of transportation should only be used when no other method is feasible. In this case, the officer shall ride in the EMS vehicle with the prisoner.