
LAURENS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP# P-140

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SUBJECT: TRANSPORT OF PRISONERS

INDEX AS: PRISONERS: TRANSPORTATION/PRISONERS:

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/20/2005 REVISED DATE:

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of establishing these guidelines is to ensure the safe and efficient transfer of prisoners to the Laurens County Law Enforcement Center or any other detention facility by Officers of this Department.

II. SCOPE:

This policy shall apply to all personnel involved in the transport, or transfer of prisoners to any detention facility.

III. SEARCH OF PRISONERS AND TRANSPORT VEHICLES:

A. A Deputy assigned to transporting a prisoner from one destination to another is required to make a thorough search of the Prisoner for weapons or contraband before transporting. This includes transportation of prisoners to and from Court appearances, or other institutions.

B. Deputies who must transport prisoners shall examine their patrol vehicle to make certain that no weapons or contraband are present prior to and from transporting prisoners.

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- C. Deputies will inspect their patrol vehicles at the beginning of each shift to ensure that the vehicles are in safe condition. These vehicles may be used to transport prisoners and it is necessary to check for safety.

IV. TRANSPORTING PRISONERS:

- A. Before transporting a prisoner from one facility to another, (ie. Jail to Hospital) the transport Deputy should make positive identification by checking with the person (s) having custody of the prisoner. If the Deputy is unsure of the identity, he should check photographs or check with the arresting officer. A Deputy may not transport until he is sure that proper identity has been made.

- B. A vehicle normally used for transporting prisoners will have a safety screen between the prisoner and the driver. Vehicles used for transporting should also have the door and window handles removed from the back seat, or have security precautions to prevent the window or door from being opened. A prisoner may be transported in a vehicle without a screen if the vehicle is not normally used for transporting prisoners, (investigator, narcotics, undercover vehicles, etc;) when at the Officers discretion, the risk of violence, injury or escape is unlikely. The prisoner should be placed in seatbelts when possible.

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- C. All prisoners arrested for a felony or any prisoner displaying any resistance or violence will be handcuffed before placing him/her in the back seat of a patrol car. Notice ""Hog-tying of suspects will not be permitted""
This type of confinement could result in positional asphyxia- a deadly condition resulting from people being placed on their stomachs. Inmates should not be transported in a prone position.

The handcuffs will not be removed from a prisoner until they are released to the custody of the Jail unless for health or safety reasons.

- D. Officers transporting prisoners are required not to lose sight of the prisoner.
- E. Once transportation has begun, it shall be the duty of the transporting office to make sure that no unauthorized person(s) are allowed to talk to the prisoner.
- F. The number of prisoners transported in one patrol unit should be determined by the transporting officers discretion based on the health safety and comfort of the prisoners and the transporting officers.

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- G. All officers transporting prisoners must proceed directly to the proper destination and shall not, at any time, be diverted from transporting. An exception will be in response to emergency calls from another agency or a citizen. In such circumstances, the officer may stop and render assistance if and only if the risk to a third party is grave and the risk to the prisoner is minimal.
 - H. During long transport, where it is necessary to provide a meal for the prisoner, the transporting officer shall select the location at his/her discretion and shall obtain a receipt for the meal provided to the prisoner.
 - I. If the Transport Officer becomes aware of information that leads him/her to believe the prisoner is a security hazard to the Court, he/she shall be responsible for advising Court Security personnel of the potential hazard.
 - J. Any prisoner transported to a hospital for treatment or examination must be accompanied by a Deputy. If a prisoner is admitted to a hospital, the Chief Deputy shall assign an officer for security and control if the prisoner is dangerous or is a security risk.
- V. SPECIAL TRANSPORT SITUATIONS:
- A. In all instances where prisoners are transported by Deputies of the opposite sex, or the prisoner is a juvenile, the beginning and ending mileage will be transmitted by RADIO to the 911 dispatcher. The dispatcher will also transmit the beginning and ending times on the radio so the log will reflect the times and mileages.

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If transportation is to another jurisdiction then a female Deputy should be used in the transport of female prisoners.

If a female Deputy is not available, then two male officers may transport but proper documentation of time and mileage must be made.

- B. If a prisoner becomes sick or injured incidental to their arrest, the arresting Deputy or transporting Deputy should seek medical attention at the time. The Deputy will transport the prisoner to a medical facility or have the prisoner transported by ambulance. Arrangements will be made for a Deputy to accompany the prisoner in the ambulance.
- C. A prisoner becoming sick or injured after incarceration may be transported either by ambulance or by a Sheriff's vehicle only after emergency medical personnel have informed the patrol supervisor of the need of advanced medical attention.
If the prisoner is transported by ambulance, a Deputy or Jail Officer stay with the prisoner until he/she can be returned to Jail. A Deputy or Jail Officer will ride in the ambulance with the prisoner.

VII. ARRIVAL AT DESTINATION:

- A. When a transporting Deputy arrives at the Laurens County Law Enforcement Center with a prisoner, he/she shall secure their firearm before entering the Jail.

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- B. Once the prisoner is in the Jail, the restraints will be removed and the prisoner will be turned over to the Jailers.
- C. When arriving at another facility with a prisoner the Deputy shall remove his firearm for safekeeping according to that Agency's Policy . The Deputy shall deliver all proper documentation to the receiving officer and shall obtain the receiving Officer's signature on the appropriate form.

VIII. ESCAPE OF PRISONER:

- A. If at any time during transportation of a prisoner, within our jurisdiction, the prisoner escapes from custody, the transporting Deputy shall notify immediately the Communications Center.
- B. A report stating the circumstances surrounding the escape is to be submitted as soon as possible.
- C. A Deputy will receive disciplinary action if it is discovered that the escape was due to carelessness or neglect on the Deputies part.
- D. If an escape occurs in a foreign jurisdiction the transporting Deputy shall take appropriate action to notify the Law Enforcement agencies of the escape.

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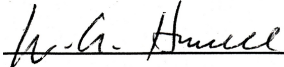
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IX. DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PRISONER:

- A. If a person has exhibited behavior which might indicate the potential for suicide or escape, a written statement should be given to the Booking Officer or other Authorized person receiving the prisoner.



W. A. HARRELL
SHERIFF

9/28/2005

EFFECTIVE DATE: