Handcuffing and Restraints

311.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
This policy provides guidelines for the use of handcuffs and other restraints during detentions and arrests.

311.2 POLICY
The Irvine Police Department authorizes the use of restraint devices in accordance with this policy, the Use of Force Policy, and department training. Restraint devices shall not be used to punish, to display authority, or as a show of force.

311.3 USE OF RESTRAINTS
Only members who have successfully completed Irvine Police Department-approved training on the use of restraint devices described in this policy are authorized to use these devices.

When deciding whether to use any restraint, officers should carefully balance officer safety concerns with factors that include, but are not limited to:

- The circumstances or crime leading to the arrest.
- The demeanor and behavior of the arrested/detained person.
- The age and health of the person.
- Whether the person is known to be pregnant.
- Whether the person has a hearing or speaking disability. In such cases, consideration should be given, safety permitting, to handcuffing to the front in order to allow the person to sign or write notes.
- Whether the person has any other apparent disability.

311.3.1 RESTRAINT OF DETAINEES
Situations may arise where it may be reasonable to restrain a person who may, after brief investigation, be released without arrest. Unless arrested, the use of restraints on detainees should continue only for as long as is reasonably necessary to ensure the safety of officers and others. When deciding whether to remove restraints from a detainee, officers should continuously weigh the safety interests at hand against the continuing intrusion upon the detainee.

311.3.2 RESTRAINT OF PREGNANT PERSONS
Persons who are known to be pregnant should be restrained in the least restrictive manner that is effective for officer safety and in no event shall these persons be restrained by the use of leg irons or waist chains. When feasible, consideration should be given whether or not to handcuff the person with arms behind their back.
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No person who is in labor, delivery or recovery after delivery shall be handcuffed or restrained except in extraordinary circumstances and only when a supervisor makes an individualized determination that such restraints are necessary for the safety of the arrestee, officers or others (Penal Code § 3407; Penal Code § 6030).

311.3.4 NOTIFICATIONS
Whenever an officer transports a person with the use of restraints other than handcuffs, the officer shall inform the jail staff upon arrival at the jail that restraints were used. This notification should include information regarding any other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety concerns or medical risks to the person (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration) that may have occurred prior to, or during, transportation to the jail.

311.4.1 MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS
Prior to booking or release, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person(s) who has sustained visible injury, expressed a complaint of an injury or continuing pain, or who has been rendered unconscious. Based upon the officer’s initial assessment of the nature and extent of the subject’s injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by fire personnel, paramedics, hospital staff or medical staff at the jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practical, should be witnessed.
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by another officer and/or medical personnel and a supervisor notified. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible. Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond physical characteristics, unusually high tolerance to pain or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to bring under control may be at an increased risk of sudden death (i.e.: excited delirium) and should be examined by qualified medical personnel as soon as practicable. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress after such an encounter should be monitored by an officer until relieved by medical personnel and shall be medically cleared prior to booking.
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311.7   APPLICATION OF LEG RESTRAINT DEVICES
Leg restraints may be used to restrain the legs of a violent or potentially violent person when it is reasonable to do so during the course of detention, arrest, or transportation. Only restraint devices approved by the Department shall be used.

In determining whether to use the leg restraint, officers should consider:
(a) Whether the officer or others could be exposed to injury due to the assaultive or resistant behavior of a person.
(b) Whether it is reasonably necessary to protect the person from his/her own actions (e.g., hitting his/her head against the interior of the patrol vehicle, running away from the arresting officer while handcuffed, kicking at objects or officers).
(c) Whether it is reasonably necessary to avoid damage to property (e.g., kicking at windows of the patrol vehicle).

311.7.1   GUIDELINES FOR USE OF LEG RESTRAINTS
When applying leg restraints, the following guidelines should be followed:
(a) If practicable, officers should notify a supervisor of the intent to apply the leg restraint device. In all cases, a supervisor shall be notified as soon as practicable after the application of the leg restraint device.
(b) Once applied, absent a medical or other emergency, restraints should remain in place until the officer arrives at the jail or other facility or the person no longer reasonably appears to pose a threat.
(c) Once secured, the person should be placed in a seated or upright position, secured with a seat belt, and shall not be placed on his/her stomach for an extended period, as this could reduce the person’s ability to breathe.
(d) The restrained person should be continually monitored by an officer while in the leg restraint. The officer should ensure that the person does not roll onto and remain on his/her stomach.
(e) The officer should look for signs of labored breathing and take appropriate steps to relieve and minimize any obvious factors contributing to this condition.
(f) When transported by emergency medical services, the restrained person should be accompanied by an officer when requested by medical personnel. The transporting officer should describe to medical personnel any unusual behaviors or other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the person (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).

311.7.2   TRANSPORTING RESTRAINED PERSONS
When transporting a person who has been restrained, officers shall observe the following procedures:
(a) Restrained suspects may be transported in a patrol unit. They should be seated in an upright position and secured by a seat belt. The long lead of the restraint should be placed outside the rear door and wrapped around the door pillar bringing it up
311.8 REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
If a person is restrained and released without an arrest, the officer shall document the details of the detention and the need for handcuffs or other restraints.

If a person is arrested, the use of handcuffs or other restraints shall be documented in the related report.

Officers should document the following information in reports, as appropriate, when restraints other than handcuffs are used on a person:

(a) The factors that led to the decision to use restraints.
(b) Supervisor notification and approval of restraint use.
(c) The types of restraint used.
(d) The amount of time the person was restrained.
(e) How the person was transported and the position of the person during transport.
(f) Observations of the person’s behavior and any signs of physiological problems.
(g) Any known or suspected drug use or other medical problems.

311.9 TRAINING
Subject to available resources, the Training Manager should ensure that officers receive periodic training on the proper use of handcuffs and other restraints, including:

(a) Proper placement and fit of handcuffs and other restraint devices approved for use by the Department.
(b) Response to complaints of pain by restrained persons.
(c) Options for restraining those who may be pregnant without the use of leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind the body.
(d) Options for restraining amputees or those with medical conditions or other physical conditions that may be aggravated by being restrained.