



**MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS
AND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Subject: *Prisoner Restraining Devices*

Number: 321

Effective Date: 01-01-2026

Revised Date:

**Rescinds: S-155 – *Restraint Chair*
S-164 – *Spit Hood***

**Dated: 07-20-2015
07-20-2015**

Approved By:

I. PURPOSE

To provide procedures for the safe and humane restraint of detainees and/or prisoners by restricting their movement to prevent self-injury, injury to others, escape, and/or property damage.

II. DISCUSSION

The safety and security of prisoners as well as our staff are primary concerns.

The use of the equipment listed in this procedure does not necessarily constitute a “use of force” as they are approved departmental restraints. For example, there is no use of force when a prisoner complies with verbal commands to walk and sit in the restraint chair and does not actively resist during the process.

III. APPROVED RESTRAINING DEVICES AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Handcuffs – A pair of lockable, linked metal rings used for securing a prisoner’s wrists. The metal rings may be connected by a two-link chain or may be hinged. They must use a standard skeleton key and have a double-locking feature.
- B. Leg Irons – A pair of lockable, linked metal rings used for securing a prisoner’s ankles. The metal rings are connected by a steel chain measuring

between 14 and 22 inches. They must use a standard skeleton key and have a double-locking feature.

- C. Plastic Handcuffs – A disposable plastic restraint, resembling thick zip ties, that is used as a quick, temporary alternative to traditional metal handcuffs and leg irons.
- D. Specialized Restraining Equipment
 - a. Restraint Chair - A hard molded plastic chair with webbed restraint straps for the legs and hands. It offers a safe and humane method for managing a prisoner who is exhibiting unruly behavior.
 - b. Spit Hood – A mesh hood or mask placed over a prisoner's head to prevent spitting and/or biting.
 - c. Temporary Immobilization Device – A device used to restrain a prisoner's appendages for a temporary period. Examples include a Restraint Chair, a RIPP Hobble, a WRAP Restraint, etc.
- E. Transport Kit - A belt or chain waist restraint that integrates with handcuffs. This kit allows the waist component to be applied, adjusted, or removed without having to adjust or remove handcuffs. It also features a lock that auto-engages without a key present or exposed. This product is designed to improve speed, efficiency, and safety when restraining detainees or prisoners.
- F. Waist Chain – A metal chain or leather belt placed around a prisoner's waist to which handcuffs may be attached.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. The use of any restraining device and/or equipment for punishment purposes is prohibited.
- B. The Department authorizes restraining devices for use on prisoners to provide a safe environment and prevent escape. Multiple devices may be used on a prisoner depending on their actions and the situation.
 - 1. Handcuffs will be applied with the prisoner's hands placed behind their back. Multiple sets of handcuffs may be used for larger prisoners or those with physical limitations.
 - 2. If a waist chain is used, the handcuffs will be attached to the chain with the prisoner's hands in front of them.

3. When possible, handcuffs will be applied so as not to inhibit blood circulation. Handcuffs will be double locked to prevent accidental tightening and to reduce the possibility of escape. If the handcuffs are cutting off circulation, the officer will attempt to loosen them or provide an alternate restraining device at the earliest safe opportunity.
 4. Alternate means of securing a subject may be used if the person in custody has, or reasonably appears to have, an injury or condition that would be further aggravated by restraints. For example, prisoners claiming to be pregnant should only be restrained with handcuffs placed in front of the body and should not be placed in waist chains or leg irons.
 5. Plastic handcuffs may be used instead of regular handcuffs when handcuffs are not available or when it is practical for the situation. They may also be used as leg restraints when necessary.
 6. Leg Irons will be applied to the lowest part of the prisoner's ankles and will be double locked to prevent accidental tightening.
- C. The Department authorizes specialized equipment and devices to contain prisoners who display violent or uncontrollable behavior, who show a propensity to destroy or attempt to destroy property, and/or those who pose a danger to themselves (i.e., suicide attempts, head banging, etc.). This equipment should be used when other control techniques, such as an officer's presence, verbal commands, soft hand control, or other restraining devices, have not been effective. If any specialized equipment is used on a prisoner in the detention center or on a prisoner entering the detention center, the Detention Supervisor shall be notified.
1. Spit Hood - The spit hood should only be used as a precaution against the spread of airborne and blood-borne pathogens. The spit hood should be used to prevent an assault or a biohazard situation when a prisoner presents a spitting concern. The spit hood should be used in conjunction with other restraint devices. If a spit hood is used, a Supervisor shall be notified promptly after application, and a "Spitter" alert shall be added to the prisoner's JMS/RMS file.
 - a. A spit hood should be used on a prisoner who gives an indication that they will spit at officers or who has already been shown to be uncontrollable and/or aggressive. For example:
 - i. Verbal threats that the prisoner will spit at an officer.
 - ii. "Hacking" or otherwise giving an audio or other cue that would indicate that spitting is imminent.

- iii. Physically spitting at or around an officer.
 - iv. A history of the prisoner spitting at or around an officer.
 - b. A prisoner who displays indications of spitting and who is not already restrained in a restraining device should be placed in one.
 - c. All efforts shall be made to don and doff the spit hood from behind the prisoner or from an angle to avoid exposure to biohazards.
 - d. The spit hood will be placed on the prisoner in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, adjusting when necessary.
 - e. Verbal instructions should be used and documented, including such phrases as "Stop resisting", "Stop spitting", etc. As with all potential biohazard situations, gloves should be used when handling potentially hazardous materials.
 - f. A prisoner wearing a spit hood should be closely monitored. If the prisoner displays difficulty breathing and the hood becomes a health and/or safety concern, the spit hood will be removed. Prisoners wearing spit hoods should be in view of a camera.
 - g. If a prisoner wearing a spit hood is transported, a second officer should be in the vehicle to monitor the prisoner. If a second officer is not available, then the spit hood should be removed.
 - h. The spit hood and all other restraining devices will be removed before a prisoner is placed in a cell.
 - i. Used spit hoods shall be disposed of in a biohazard bag.
2. The use of a Temporary Immobilization Device, such as a restraint chair, the WRAP, or a RIPP Hobble, must be authorized by a Supervisor before use. They will be used by officers trained in their use and in accordance with each device's manufacturer's recommendations.
- a. The Supervisor shall designate a trained Officer to operate the Temporary Immobilization Device to secure the prisoner. A minimum of two (2) officers will assist in placing a prisoner in the Temporary Immobilization Device, except the restraint chair, which requires three (3) officers. Additional officers

may assist when necessary for safety reasons.

- b. The Temporary Immobilization Device should be checked before use to ensure that the equipment and accessories are in proper working order.
- c. A prisoner, while being placed in, while secured in, and when released from the Temporary Immobilization Device, should remain in view of a video recording device.
- d. A fifteen (15) minute jail check will be documented on the Jail Check Log whenever an inmate is secured in a Temporary Immobilization Device. This would include a visual inspection of the inmate and the equipment.
- e. In the event the inmate appears to be suffering from a medical issue while in the Temporary Immobilization Device, EMS shall be summoned, and the Detention Supervisor will be notified. The inmate may be removed from the Temporary Immobilization Device, if necessary, to control or relieve the medical issue.
- f. To ensure circulatory problems do not develop while an inmate is confined in a Temporary Immobilization Device, periodic breaks from the device are permitted unless the inmate persists in violent, threatening, or uncooperative behavior. Breaks will be supervised by at least two (2) officers and are accomplished by releasing each extremity one at a time to allow for stretching, extending, and/or flexing the extremities.
- g. A prisoner may remain in a Temporary Immobilization Device for a maximum of two (2) hours unless extenuating circumstances exist.
 - i. If the prisoner continues to display uncontrollable behavior at the two-hour mark, the Detention Supervisor or designee shall summon EMS and/or a mental health provider for an evaluation and recommendation.
 - ii. After the evaluation, the Detention Supervisor or designee will order the prisoner released from the Temporary Immobilization Device or transported to a medical facility for a mental and/or physical evaluation and treatment.
 - iii. The prisoner may remain in a Temporary Immobilization

Device before and during transport.

- iv. The medical provider must approve the continued use of the Temporary Immobilization Device after their initial evaluation.
 - v. If the medical provider does not approve the continued use of the Temporary Immobilization Device in writing, the prisoner will be placed in a less-restrictive restraining device.
- h. A prisoner may be transported in a Temporary Immobilization Device under the following conditions:
- i. A prisoner should be positioned upright and secured with a seatbelt. A prisoner will not be transported while positioned face down on their chest.

Note: If the prisoner is in a restraining chair, the transport vehicle must be equipped with a chair lift and a mechanism to attach the chair to the floor of the vehicle during transport.
 - ii. When using a RIPP Hobble, the clip on the loose end must be secured inside the vehicle on the rear of the prisoner or to the front passenger seat belt.
 - iii. A second officer should be present in the transport vehicle to continuously monitor the prisoner for breathing, consciousness level, physical distress, and medical complaints.
 - iv. If the prisoner displays signs of medical distress, excited delirium, difficulty breathing, or loss of consciousness, immediately remove or loosen restraints, render first aid, and request emergency medical services.
- i. The Detention Supervisor or designee shall determine when it is appropriate to safely remove the inmate from the Temporary Immobilization Device. A minimum of two (2) officers will assist in removing an inmate from the Temporary Immobilization Device.

3. Safety Considerations.

- a. Officers responsible for the prisoner restrained by Temporary Immobilization Devices must be observant that the prisoner does not get into dangerous positions, including but not limited to:
 - i. A prisoner in a seated position, and their head drops down to their chest and becomes unresponsive.
 - ii. The prisoner becomes face down in the backseat or floor of the transporting vehicle.
 - iii. The prisoner is placed face-down on the ground, supporting one or more officers' body weight.
 - iv. A prisoner placed face-down and "hog-tied" (knees bent with less than 12" of slack in the strap between the restrained hands and ankles).
 - v. The prisoner slumps in the seat with their head below waist level.

D. Documentation

1. A Specialized Restraining Device Report, located in Forms & Documents, shall be completed anytime a Specialized Restraining Device is utilized inside or outside of the Detention Center and regardless of whether a use of force occurred. The report will be submitted to the Officer's Supervisor and forwarded to the Watch Commander by the end of the shift in which the device was used. The report should include the following details:
 - a. Reporting Officer.
 - b. Prisoner's name.
 - c. Date and time of incident.
 - d. Time the prisoner was placed in the device(s).
 - e. Approving supervisor/designee.

- f. Device(s) used.
- g. Details of perceived and observed behavior/conduct that justified use of the device(s).
- h. If the prisoner was transported in a device, provide the details and the names of the officers in the vehicle.
- i. If the device(s) were used for more than two (2) hours, document the details and times of the extenuating circumstances.
- j. Number and time(s) of breaks while in the device(s).
- k. Justification for removal from the chair.
- l. Time the prisoner was removed from the chair.
- m. A copy of the Jail Check Log showing fifteen (15) minute checks of the prisoner will be submitted with the Report.