

## Chapter 38

### PRISONER TRANSPORTATION

Standards in this chapter concern those directives that should exist pertaining to the prisoner transport function.

Transportation by police departments of persons who are in custody is a constant requirement and a frequent activity. Two general time periods are involved. The first is immediately after arrest, when the prisoner is taken by the arresting officer for booking and holding or transfer to another facility. The second concerns the movement of prisoners from the detention facility, such as the department's holding facility, to a hospital, doctor, dentist, or other medical facility; to court; and for other reasons. Departments should review their policy and procedures covering all types of prisoner transportation.

#### 38.1 Transport Operations

**38.1.1 A written directive requires a search of the prisoner by the transporting officer before being transported.**

*Comments: The transporting officer is legally responsible for the safety and custody of the prisoner being transported. Prisoners should be searched each time they come into the transporting officer's custody, including transport to and from court appearances. (M M M)*

**38.1.2 A written directive requires the search of transport vehicles prior to and after transporting prisoners.**

*Comments: Each time a prisoner is to be transported, the vehicle should be examined to ensure that no weapons or similar items are present. (M M M)*

**38.1.3 A written directive stipulates circumstances under which the transporting officer can stop to respond to the need for police services while transporting a prisoner.**

*Comments: Considering the potential for escape, the safety of the prisoner, and the reason for custody, officers should have some direction for responding to apparent need for police services while transporting prisoners. In most circumstances the officer should call for the assistance of another unit, rather than jeopardize officer or prisoner safety and custody. (M M M)*

**38.1.4 A written directive prescribes the security and control of prisoners transported to medical care facilities for treatment or examination.**

*Comments: If the prisoner is admitted to the hospital, the department should provide for security as necessary. (M M M)*

**38.1.5** A written directive requires that the department notify the judge of the court when a prisoner to be transported to court is considered a security hazard.

*Comments: In such cases, the judge may allow or direct the use of restraining devices in the court and may request the assignment of additional security officers to the court. (M M M)*

### **Special Transport Situations**

**38.2.1** A written directive governs situations permitting transport of prisoners by officers of the opposite sex, with exceptions defined.

*Comments: In such situations, procedures should provide for recording time of departure, time of arrival, and mileage of the vehicle. (M M M)*

**38.2.2** A written directive prescribes methods used in transporting mentally disturbed, handicapped, sick or injured prisoners.

*Comments: These prisoners present conditions for their transport that dictate special care and attention. (M M M)*

**38.2.3** A written directive prescribes the use of restraining devices on mentally disturbed, handicapped, sick or injured prisoners.

*Comments: It should not be assumed that restraining devices are not required on these prisoners. (M M M)*

### **Restraining Devices**

**38.3.1** A written directive stipulates prisoners are to be restrained during transport, with exceptions noted.

*Comments: It is necessary for officers to know when and how prisoners are to be restrained and when, where, and how particular restraining devices are to be employed, including special and prohibited methods. (M M M)*

### **Documentation**

**38.4.1** A written directive prescribes the documentation that must accompany the prisoner being transported.

*Comments: Proper documentation should accompany the prisoner depending upon the reason for transportation. (M M M)*

**38.4.2** A written directive requires that information relating to the prisoner's escape or suicide potential or other personal traits of a security nature be included in the documentation that accompanies the prisoner during transport.

*Comments: The escort officer should be specifically alerted to any potential security problems that the prisoner may present during transport. This information should include escape or suicidal tendencies as well as unusual illnesses. (M M M)*