

# Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department

## GENERAL ORDER

8.1

### ARRESTEE/DETAINEE HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION, AND ESCAPE

#### POLICY

It is the policy of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) to take reasonable precautions while restraining and transporting arrestees/detainees in order to protect the safety of the transportation officer, the public, and the person in custody. All people in IMPD custody must be treated humanely and with dignity. All detainees must be monitored frequently by the arresting, reporting, and/or transportation officers to ensure their well-being.

#### DEFINITIONS

Arrestee – A person who is in police custody and is being arrested and transported.

Body Cavity Search – Any search involving the penetration of the anal and/or vaginal cavity for the purposes of retrieving contraband.

Detainee – A person who is in police custody.

Juvenile – A person seventeen (17) years of age or younger.

Positional Asphyxia – A condition in which the position of the body interferes with normal respiration and causes an extreme decrease in the amount of oxygen in the body accompanied by an increase of carbon dioxide which may lead to loss of consciousness and death.

Transport Wagon – A specially designed van with secured, compartmentalized seating for multiple arrestees/detainees.

Restraint Device – Department-approved equipment used to restrain the movement of a person in custody, such as handcuffs, flex-cuffs, waist chains, ankle chains, etc.

Shield Car – A department-owned sedan including a partition between the front and rear passenger compartments meant to separate the officer or Public Safety Officer (PSO) from the arrestee/detainee. This vehicle is designed for single-person transport.

Strip Search – The removal of some or all clothing to expose the genitals, buttocks, anus, and/or breasts of said person to permit a visual inspection.

Transportation Officer – Any IMPD employee who is assigned the responsibility of transporting an arrestee/detainee.

**PROCEDURE****I. Arrestee/Detainee Searches**

- A. An officer making a custodial arrest or otherwise coming into control of an arrestee/detainee must ensure a thorough search of the arrestee/detainee, including footwear and all property under the arrestee's/detainee's control (e.g. bags, purses, backpacks, etc.), is conducted prior to transportation to a detention/treatment facility.
- B. Officers will explain the reasons for the search and the manner the search will be conducted to the arrestee/detainee prior to conducting the search, when feasible.
- C. Body-worn cameras must be activated and record the arrestee/detainee searches.
- D. When an arrestee/detainee is not the same gender as the arresting/reporting officer, the officer will follow the procedures below.
  - 1. The arresting/reporting officer must request an officer of the same gender as the arrestee/detainee to respond to the scene of the incident to conduct the search.
  - 2. If an officer of the same gender is not available, the arresting/reporting officer will perform the search of the arrestee/detainee. Another officer must be present to witness the search, when feasible.
  - 3. If a Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) response lists an arrestee's/detainee's sex as "X" (i.e., "non-binary"), then the arrestee/detainee must be searched by an officer of the gender they choose, when feasible.
  - 4. If the gender identity of the arrestee/detainee is unknown or in question, officers will respectfully ask the arrestee/detainee their gender identity.
    - a. Officers will not question an arrestee's/detainee's gender identity unless there are specific, relevant, and articulable reasons to do so.
    - b. Officers will not ask questions about an arrestee's/detainee's genitalia or anatomy to determine gender identity.
    - c. If an officer cannot determine the gender identity of the arrestee/detainee and the arrestee/detainee is unwilling or unable to respond to the officer's inquiry, the officer will identify the arrestee's/detainee's sex based on what is listed on the arrestee's/detainee's BMV response.
    - d. If a BMV response is unavailable at the time of the search, officers will make a determination using their professional judgement and note that in the narrative
    - e. Searches will be conducted based on the gender identity of the arrestee/detainee, when feasible (e.g., if an arrestee/detainee self-identifies as a male, a male officer will conduct the search; if an arrestee/detainee self-identifies as a female, a female officer will conduct the search).
    - f. Interactions and questions regarding an arrestee's/detainee's gender identity, or request to be searched by an officer of a certain gender, must be recorded on body-worn cameras.



5. If an arrestee/detainee objects to being searched by an officer or contests the listed BMV response, the officer will request a supervisor to the scene, document the objection in the incident report, and complete the search as thoroughly and professionally as possible.
- E. When an officer takes custody of an arrestee/detainee, they must perform a search for weapons and contraband, even if the arrestee/detainee has been previously searched by another officer.
  1. If the arrestee/detainee is not of the same gender as the receiving officer but has been searched by a member of the same gender, the receiving officer is not required to perform a secondary search.
  2. If the arrestee/detainee is not of the same gender identity as the receiving officer and has not been searched by a member of the same gender identity, the receiving officer will conduct a search in accordance with Section I., C.
- F. Strip searches may be conducted when there is probable cause the arrestee/detainee is concealing a weapon, controlled substance, or contraband. Refer to IMPD General Order 1.10 – *Search and Seizure* for further information.
- G. Body cavity searches, except searches of the mouth, are prohibited unless a valid search warrant is obtained. Officers will notify a supervisor prior to contacting the appropriate investigative unit to assist with the search warrant. Refer to IMPD General Order 1.10 – *Search and Seizure* for further information.
- H. Strip and body cavity searches are prohibited for juveniles.

## **II. Restraint Procedures**

- A. All arrestees/detainees must be secured as soon as reasonably possible with their hands cuffed behind their backs and the handcuffs double-locked, unless otherwise prescribed in the general order.
- B. When an arrestee/detainee has a medical condition or otherwise is incapable of being handcuffed behind their back, officers may:
  1. Use flex cuffs;
  2. Apply the handcuffs with the hands in front of the arrestee/detainee;
  3. Use belly chains; or
  4. Use no restraining device. Unrestrained arrestees/detainees must be transported by a minimum of two officers.
- C. Deaf and hard of hearing arrestees/detainees can be handcuffed with their hands in front of their body; unless a specific and articulable safety concern exists.
- D. Violent arrestees/detainees may have their legs restrained by use of an appropriate restraint device, if available, or as authorized by an on-scene supervisor (e.g., it is necessary for the safety of officers and the arrestee/detainee, to prevent damage to vehicles, etc.).
- E. Leg restraints may only be used on arrestees/detainees, when necessary, to ensure the safety of officers and the detainee, or to prevent damage to property.



1. Officers must receive authorization from a supervisor prior to placing leg restraints on an arrestee/detainee, unless exigent circumstances exist.
  2. Officers must notify a supervisor as soon as reasonably possible after applying leg restraints. If unable to notify a supervisor prior to applying leg restraints, officers must notify a supervisor immediately after applying the leg restraints.
  3. The supervisor who authorizes, or is notified of, the use of the leg restraints must respond to the scene to investigate the circumstances.
  4. Officers are prohibited from connecting handcuffs to leg restraints behind an arrestee/detainee's back (e.g., hogtying).
- F. All restraint devices must be secured to fit the arrestee/detainee but not restrict blood flow or cause unnecessary pain.
- G. Officers will not use restraints to punish or display authority over an arrestee/detainee.
- H. Officers will not secure an arrestee/detainee to any part of a vehicle.
- I. Arrestees/detainees must be kept under observation at all times.
- J. Spit hoods may be placed on arrestees/detainees who have attempted or threatened to bite or spit officers.
1. Spit hoods must be properly fitted and secured on arrestees/detainees.
  2. Medical personnel may remove spit hoods if needed to treat the arrestee/detainee.
  3. Spit hoods must be discarded or cleaned after each use.
  4. Only officers who have been issued a spit hood and received department training on the proper use of spit hoods may apply them on arrestees/detainees.

### **III. Transportation Procedures**

- A. Arrestees must be transported by a transport wagon or shield car unless otherwise dictated by this general order, or when articulable circumstances exist that require another mode of department-approved transportation.
- B. The arresting/reporting officer is responsible for the preparation and completion of all paperwork and necessary reports.
- C. The transportation officer will deliver paperwork, not submitted electronically by the arresting officer, to the appropriate facility (e.g., receiving area, medical staff, etc.).
- D. All personal property (except contraband) which would fit in someone's pocket, wallet, or purse may be sent with arrestees/detainees.
1. All property, including belts and currency less than \$500.00, must be packaged in heat-sealed or self-sealed bags for transportation to a detention/treatment facility.



- a. An *Arrestee Personal Property List* form must be completed and placed inside an arrestee's/detainee's property bag.
  - b. Transportation officers will not accept open or torn property bags. Once sealed, transportation officers will not open property bags.
  - c. If new arrestee/detainee property is discovered, the existing sealed bag and new property must be placed in a new bag and sealed.
  - d. All arrestee/detainee property must be kept outside of the arrestee/detainee compartment and out of reach of the arrestees/detainees.
2. The arresting/reporting officer is responsible for ensuring all large items (e.g., suitcases, bags, or boxes) and currency over \$500.00 are placed in the Property Section under the category "safekeeping."
  3. Medical mobility devices (e.g., canes, crutches, walkers, etc.) may be transported with arrestee/detainee. These items must be kept outside of the arrestee/detainee compartment of the transport wagon until arrival to the detention/treatment center.
  4. Knives, mace, or any other item that could be a weapon will not be accepted at the juvenile intake facility and must be placed in the Property Section.
- E. When property is removed from an unconscious arrestee/detainee and/or there is a complaint of injury to either the arrestee/detainee or officers, a supervisor must be notified and the arresting/reporting officer will include details in the narrative section of the incident report.
- F. Transportation officers must:
1. Have and wear their assigned BWC while on duty in accordance with GO 4.32 – *Body Worn Cameras*. If the BWC does not automatically activate, transportation officers will manually activate the device when responding to dispatched transportation runs, starting before the transportation officer arrives on scene. The device will remain activated in the following circumstances:
    - a. Taking custody of arrestees/detainees from the arresting/reporting officer;
    - b. During all searches of arrestees/detainees and their property;
    - c. Loading/unloading arrestees/detainees from the transport wagon or shield car; and
    - d. If the transport wagon or shield car is not equipped with interior video, the transportation officer will continue recording while arrestees/detainees are being transported. Recording may be stopped when the transportation and/or transfer of custody at the appropriate detention/treatment facility is completed.
  2. Check compartments and seats of the transporting vehicle for weapons, contraband, and hazardous material:
    - a. Prior to placing arrestees/detainees in the vehicle;
    - b. After removing arrestees/detainees from the vehicle; and
    - c. At the beginning and end of each shift.



3. Ensure all security measures (e.g., interior door locks, "Child Safety Locks," window locks, etc.) are activated and functioning in compartments and seats where arrestees/detainees will be placed.
4. Conduct an additional search of the arrestees/detainees in accordance with Section I., C.
5. Remove all jewelry from the arrestee's/detainee's body that can be removed without causing injury or violating reasonable privacy. Ear and body piercings should not be removed unless there is an articulable safety issue.
6. Advise the receiving facility's personnel if a thorough search of the arrestee was not made due to their gender identity or other circumstances.
7. Ensure arrestees are restrained in accordance with Section II. while being transported.
8. Place arrestees of different sexes in separate compartments of the transportation vehicle, and place juveniles and adults in separate compartments.
  - a. If the transportation vehicle is not equipped with separate compartments for juveniles and adults, they cannot be transported in the same vehicle.
  - b. If the transportation vehicle is not equipped with separate compartments for different sexes, they cannot be transported in the same vehicle.
  - c. Arrestees/detainees will be placed in compartments based on the gender they identify as, unless there are specific, relevant, and articulable reasons to place them in a different compartment.
  - d. Arrestees/detainees who have a BMV sex designation of "X" or self-identify as non-binary must be treated as a distinct and separate gender.
9. Place any combative arrestees/detainees, those with known health risks, or those who have been exposed to CS/OC in individual and separate compartments.
10. Allow arrestees/detainees to only have personal or telecommunication contact with law enforcement or emergency personnel while being transported.
11. Transport a person under mental writ or immediate detention in a separate compartment from others. These individuals must be transported directly to the appropriate facility without additional stops or arrestee/detainee pick-ups.
12. Refrain from taking or assisting in any law enforcement activity while transporting arrestees/detainees.
  - a. If the risk to a third party is both clear and grave, and the risk of escape or injury to the arrestee/detainee is minimal, a sworn officer may stop to render assistance or take other enforcement actions.
  - b. Non-sworn transportation officers must not take any law enforcement action and will notify Communications when encountering a situation requiring emergency personnel.
  - c. Initiating or becoming involved in any vehicle pursuit while transporting an arrestee/detainee is prohibited. Transport Wagons must not be operated under emergency conditions, including pursuits, due to increased rollover risks.



13. Update the location in the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) when picking up and dropping off arrestees/detainees.
  14. Contact a supervisor immediately if an arrestee/detainee becomes injured during transportation.
  15. Notify receiving personnel of any potential medical risks or unusual security risks an arrestee/detainee poses, including suicide, escape, or biohazard risks.
  16. Deliver arrestees to the appropriate detention facility within two hours of their pick-up.
  17. Provide receiving personnel with the Officer Arrest Report (OAR) or Juvenile Fact Sheet, and the arrestee's/detainee's property.
  18. Remain at detention/treatment facilities until arrestees/detainees are secured by receiving personnel.
- G. When circumstances require an IMPD vehicle that is not a transport wagon or shield car be used to transport an arrestee/detainee, the transportation officer must adhere to the following in addition to the requirements listed in Section III., D.:
1. Place arrestee/detainee in the passenger side of the rear seat away from the transportation officer (when transporting one arrestee/detainee).
  2. Secure all arrestees/detainees upright with a seatbelt and lock the seatbelt in place.
  3. Notify Communications of the reason for the transportation, the beginning location and mileage, the destination, and ending mileage. This applies to transporting witnesses, victims, suspects, detainees, and arrestees.
  4. Transport no more than two (2) individuals at one time. Individuals are prohibited from riding in the front seat of any vehicle unless participating in a ride along.
  5. Monitor individuals at all times and never leave them unattended in the vehicle.
  6. Transport individuals directly to the appropriate receiving/interview facility without additional stops.

#### **IV. Arrestees/Detainees in Need of Medical Aid**

- A. Eskenazi is the preferred medical facility for arrestees who must be transported to a medical facility by ambulance for any of the following reasons:
1. The arrestee has lost consciousness or is unconscious;
  2. The arrestee cannot stand unassisted (except as a result of a pre-existing physical handicap);
  3. The arrestee has suffered a serious or life-threatening injury;
  4. The arrestee is complaining of physical injury or illness with observable symptoms, (e.g., bleeding, swelling, distorted limbs, vomiting, paleness, clammy skin, or cramping);
  5. The arrestee is believed to have swallowed a dangerous narcotic;





6. A supervisor or medical personnel determine it is necessary to transport the arrestee by ambulance for the well-being of the arrestee or others (e.g., arrestee is suspected to be infectious or contagious and needs to be quarantined from others, or requires special medical attention, etc.).
  - a. If medical personnel on scene advise an arrestee they've examined can be transported by an officer, the medic number, name, and ID must be recorded into the CAD.
  - b. An arrestee only mildly ill, intoxicated, or suffering minor injuries must be transported directly to the appropriate detention facility by the transportation officer to receive care by medical personnel. If the arrestee is evaluated at a detention facility and requires care beyond what can be provided, the arrestee must be transported to the hospital by the transportation officer, or ambulance, if necessary.
7. The arrestee is a juvenile and has one or more of the following conditions:
  - a. Shows any significant signs of impairment by drug or alcohol intoxication, or was tested by Juvenile receiving personnel and has a .08 BAC or higher;
  - b. Was subdued by use of a Taser, OC, or CS; and/or
  - c. Was involved in a car accident (regardless of injury).
- B. When an arrestee/detainee is transported by ambulance, officers must:
  1. Consult with the medical personnel on the scene to determine the proper method of restraint within the ambulance to ensure security of the arrestee/detainee and protection of the ambulance personnel.
  2. Ensure the ambulance is followed by an officer with all the appropriate paperwork.
    - a. Transport wagons must not be used to follow an ambulance.
    - b. Upon arrival to the detention/treatment facility, an IMPD officer must accompany the arrestee/detainee until properly restrained and transferred to authorized receiving personnel.
- C. If an arrestee/detainee is disabled and the disability prevents the use of a transport wagon, the transportation officer will request a supervisor to assist in arranging appropriate transportation.
  1. The application of restraint devices on a disabled arrestee/detainee is governed by the subject's physical capabilities, the seriousness of the charges against the arrestee, and/or the threat level of the arrestee/detainee.
  2. Assistance may be requested in order to make the transportation safe for both the arrestee/detainee and the transportation officer.
  3. An ambulance may be requested to assist in the transportation of an arrestee/detainee when medically necessary.
  4. Prosthetic devices should be left with the arrestee/detainee only after being searched thoroughly for weapons and contraband.





- D. Arrestees/detainees who were subjected to CS/OC or pepper-ball projectile must be taken directly to the appropriate detention/treatment facility for treatment by medical staff without undue delay.
  - 1. The transportation officer must notify the detention center personnel upon arrival that CS/OC or pepper ball projectiles were used on the subject.
  - 2. The compartment the arrestee/detainee was transported in must be decontaminated prior to placing another inside it.
- E. An officer must remain at the medical facility with the arrestee.
- F. Officers will request and/or render aid in accordance with all other policies.

#### **V. Arrestees Admitted to the Hospital**

- A. Officers will remain with the arrestee at all times while the hospital conducts medical screening procedures.
- B. When an arrestee is transported to the hospital for medical treatment and subsequently admitted to the hospital, the arresting officer will immediately notify their supervisor. The arresting officer will consult with the supervisor to determine the appropriate course of action to include but not be limited to:
  - 1. Issue a summons;
  - 2. Administratively release the arrestee from custody and apply for an arrest warrant at a later date; or
  - 3. Evaluate the circumstance of the investigation and determine if a hospital guard detail should be initiated.
- C. If an issue at the hospital arises that cannot be resolved at the supervisor level, then the appropriate District Commander or Night Watch Commander should be notified.

#### **VI. Arrestee Receiving**

- A. All adult arrestees transported to the Adult Detention Center (ADC), must be received at 695 Justice Way.
  - 1. Upon arrival transportation officers will proceed directly to the intake door.
  - 2. No firearms will be allowed in the arrestee receiving area. Officers must place their weapon in a gun locker before unloading arrestees.
  - 3. Detention facility personnel will remove restraining devices inside the secured area once the arrestee has been searched.
  - 4. When an arrestee is turned over to a detention facility the transportation officer must notify them of any known existing medical problems or security hazards.
- B. All juvenile arrestees, regardless of the charges against them, will be transported to the juvenile intake facility at 2451 N. Keystone Avenue, unless transported to a hospital.



1. Juvenile arrestees are received in the arrestee-unloading bay at the juvenile intake facility.
2. Transportation officers will:
  - a. Use the call-box on the parking lot to have the overhead door opened;
  - b. Pull into the bay and turn the engine off, overhead door will be closed;
  - c. Place weapons in the lock-box; and
  - d. Unload the arrestee and transfer to receiving personnel.
3. Juvenile arrestees 13 years of age or younger must not be transported to the juvenile intake facility via transport wagon.
  - a. The officer will notify Communications and report their beginning mileage, as well as ending mileage, upon arrival at the detention facility.
  - b. If the juvenile arrestee is combative or violently resisting arrest, the officer must advise Communications and request an IMPD supervisor be dispatched to the scene. The supervisor will be responsible for determining the appropriate manner in which the juvenile will be transported to the juvenile intake facility.

## **VII. Positional Asphyxia**

- A. Officers must be aware of the warning signs that could result in death by positional asphyxia. The signs listed below may indicate a state of hypothermia resulting from acute psychomotor agitation delirium, a potentially dangerous condition. If an arrestee/detainee is suffering from any the signs below and placed in a prone position that interferes with breathing, there is a greater risk of positional asphyxia.
  1. Bizarre, aggressive, violent behavior outside the norm;
  2. Shouting and screaming, especially at inanimate objects;
  3. Violence toward objects, especially glass;
  4. Profuse sweating;
  5. High fever;
  6. Unexpected physical strength;
  7. Thrashing after restraint;
  8. Shivering;
  9. Dilated pupils;
  10. Hallucinations;
  11. Paranoia;
  12. Tightness or pain in the chest;
  13. Nausea;
  14. Shortness of breath; and/or
  15. Known drug overdose.
- B. Arrestees/detainees must never be placed face down in a vehicle for transportation.
- C. An arrestee/detainee placed on their chest or back may have difficulty breathing, leading to serious injury or death.



1. Officers should avoid leaving any arrestee/detainee on their chest or stomach for any period of time longer than is absolutely necessary, regardless of the type of restraint used.
  2. The arrestee/detainee should be moved onto their side, allowing less interference with normal breathing, as soon as possible.
  3. The arrestee/detainee should then be carefully observed and medical assistance should be summoned immediately to evaluate their health.
- D. Any arrestee/detainee exhibiting some or all of the above symptoms must be closely monitored. Officers must make sure the arrestee/detainee is alert, conscious, and can sit and speak on their own before transporting.
- E. If and when the arrestee/detainee is cleared by medics, the arrestee/detainee will be transported by a shield car to the appropriate facility.

#### **VIII. Arrestee/Detainee Escape**

- A. When an arrestee/detainee escapes from IMPD custody, officers will immediately notify Communications and provide:
1. Location of the escape;
  2. Direction and mode of travel;
  3. Escapee's name and physical description;
  4. Charges against the escapee; and
  5. Any other pertinent information. (e.g., is the escapee handcuffed, etc.).
- B. The officer will immediately request a supervisor to the scene and assess the need for additional resources (e.g., aviation support, canine, etc.).
- C. Upon arrival, the supervisor will gather all pertinent information from the officer(s), assess the need for additional resources, and notify the chain of command.
- D. The arresting/reporting officer must prepare a Blue Team describing the incident and circumstances contributing to the escape.
1. The Blue Team must be completed by the end of the officer's shift.
  2. The officer will carbon copy (cc) the district commander on the original Blue Team entry and forward the Blue Team up through the chain of command.
- E. The arresting/reporting officer must include an account of the escape in the narrative section of an incident report.
1. If the escape occurs before the transportation officer has left the scene of the arrestee/detainee transfer, the details may be included in the original incident report by the arresting officer.
  2. If the escape occurs after the transportation officer has left the scene of the arrestee/detainee transfer, a separate incident report must be created by the transportation officer.
- F. A complete search of the area must be conducted.
- G. Surrounding jurisdictions should be notified, when appropriate.