

**POLICY
409**

**EFFECTIVE
DATE
122914**

**Eugene
Police Department**



This policy was amended by CD17-033 on December 18, 2017. Section 409.3 was amended to include language regarding seat belting prisoners, and not handcuffing them to the vehicle. The added sections are highlighted.

Prisoner Transports

409.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Transporting prisoners is a common task for patrol officers and involves certain risks. This policy gives guidance on the safe and efficient transportation of prisoners in patrol vehicles. For details about the Eugene Police Department Jail Van, see *Policy 451 – Jail Van Operations*.

For the purposes of this policy, *prisoner* refers to anyone restrained and being transported in a patrol car, regardless of the destination or nature of the detention.

409.2 SEARCHES OF PRISONERS PRIOR TO TRANSPORT

Officers transporting prisoners to a jail facility, local hospital, or sobering center are responsible for the safety and security of the person(s) being transported. Officers will thoroughly search the prisoner for weapons or contraband before placing the prisoner into a police vehicle for transport, regardless of whether the prisoner was previously searched by another officer. Officers will search a prisoner again before transferring custody of the subject to another agency or officer, or when receiving a prisoner from another agency or officer. These searches are non-discretionary.

Weapons, contraband, evidence, and any other item discovered by the searching officer will be seized, documented and secured in accordance with department policy. For details see *Policy 902 – Searches and Inventories of Detained Persons*, and *Policy 1104 – Evidence and Property Handling*.

409.3 TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS

In addition to the start and end of each shift, the vehicle prisoner compartment will be searched prior to, and immediately following, placing a prisoner in the rear seat of patrol vehicles.

Whenever possible, prisoners should be transported in a patrol vehicle with a barrier between the front and rear passenger compartments. No more than two prisoners may be transported at one time; males, females, and juveniles must be transported separately. If a single prisoner is transported, he or she should travel in the passenger side of the prisoner compartment to allow better observation of the prisoner by the officer.

If a prisoner is transported in a vehicle that does not have a prisoner compartment (sergeant vehicle, detective car), the prisoner will be handcuffed and seated in the rear passenger seat. A second officer should ride in the back behind the driver to observe the prisoner.

Prisoners should be transported with a seat belt properly secured unless the safety of the custody, or officers may be compromised by securing the seat belt. Exceptions may include prisoners who are combative, spitting, hobbled, or unable to wear the seat belt as designed. Exceptions to this requirement must be documented in the associated police report.

Transport the prisoner to the destination using the most efficient and direct route. While transporting a prisoner there should be no stops for reasons other than traffic flow and those necessary to address officer or prisoner safety. Officers should notify dispatch of the destination at the start of every transport. Officers will only deviate to calls for service when a life-threatening emergency exists and there are no alternatives to responding to the incident.

Unless there is an exception based upon the physical condition or disability of a prisoner, or because the destination is outside of the Eugene Metro area, all prisoners will be transported with their wrists restrained behind their back with handcuffs or flex-cuffs. You may use any of the following restraint devices when transporting a prisoner, or a combination thereof:

- Handcuffs
- Flexible Restraint Device (FRD)
- Flex-Cuffs
- Spit Hood
- Belly chain and leg shackles

Do not handcuff the prisoner to any part of the vehicle.

409.4 PRISONER ESCAPE PROTOCOLS

If a prisoner escapes from the custody of a transporting officer the officer will take the following actions:

- a. Immediately notify dispatch of the location, prisoner description, accomplice description, direction of travel, and charges on the escaped prisoner.
- b. Request dispatch notifies surrounding agencies of suspect and description and any other pertinent details.
- c. Coordinate the response and search efforts of responding units until relieved by a supervisor.
- d. If the escapee is not apprehended, prepare a report titled Escape and the appropriate degree classification under a separate case number.

409.5 PRISONER TRANSPORT TO MUNICIPAL COURT

Prisoners being transported from a secure detention facility (Lane County Adult Corrections, Springfield Municipal Jail) to another location will be identified prior to departure from the secure detention facility. If there is any question as to the identification of the prisoner, notify jail staff, a patrol supervisor, and do not depart with the prisoner until the question of their identity is resolved satisfactorily.

Transporting officers should always assume that the prisoner(s) they are transporting to court have had an opportunity to obtain contraband or weapons prior to their contact with the officer. Always search prisoners before placing them into a patrol car for transport.

Notify the court staff if the prisoner transported presents an unusual or significant risk to security of the court.

409.6 TRANSPORTING INJURED, OR DISABLED PRISONERS

Always use the appropriate precautions and safety techniques when arresting people, regardless of whether they have a disability, appear injured, or complain of serious illness.

Once it is safe to do so, consider the special needs of your prisoner based on their illness, injury, or disability. In conjunction with the officer's training and knowledge of dealing safely with ill, injured, or disabled persons, consider the characteristics of the injury or disability, the previously encountered level of resistance, or the reasonable likelihood of resistance, the arrested offence, and the immediacy to transport the person to jail.

409.6.1 INJURIES OR DISABILITIES THAT PREVENT HANDCUFFING

If you cannot handcuff a prisoner behind their back, follow the guidance in § 308.2.2 *Handcuffing Pregnant Females, Juveniles, and Injured Persons*. Notify a patrol supervisor who can assist or approve alternate methods of transporting the subject.

409.6.2 PRISONERS WITH PHYSICAL AIDS

Prisoners with physical aids such as canes, wheel chairs, leg braces or other mobility aids should be evaluated to consider the officer safety risks presented by the mobility aid and the needs of the prisoner. Mobility aid should be searched and/or examined. If the mobility aid must be withheld, closely monitor the prisoner and ensure the prisoner's reasonable mobility needs are met.

409.6.3 PRISONERS TAKING MEDICATION

Once a prisoner is in your custody do not allow them to ingest any medications. If the prisoner requires a medication that is in a pharmacy issued bottle with the prisoner's name on it, place their medications into their property bag so that medical staff at a jail or hospital can administer at their discretion. Notify jail staff of the presence of medications in the jail property bag.