



ANDERSON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 228

GENERAL ORDERS

PRISONER TRANSPORTATION

PURPOSE:

Transportation of in-custody persons is a frequent activity. Generally, there are three types of transportation:

1. Immediately after arrest when the prisoner is taken for arraignment and/or booking
2. From the Detention Center to court or returning a prisoner from another jurisdiction back to Anderson County
3. Persons ordered by the court to undergo mental examination

Transportation concerns:

- Officer safety
- Prisoner rights
- Escape risk
- Injury risk
- Prisoner safety

TRANSPORT PROCEDURES:

Transportation Vehicle Search – Vehicles used to transport prisoners are to be searched prior to and after each transport.

Prisoner Search – A transporting deputy is legally responsible for the safety and custody of the prisoner. Before accepting prisoners for transportation, the transport deputy is to conduct a thorough search. It shall never be assumed by the deputy that someone else has searched the prisoner.

Transport Trips – At the beginning of his/her shift, the transport deputy is to inspect the transport vehicle to ensure:

1. All safety equipment is operational;
2. All emergency equipment for mechanical failure is aboard; including the spare tire, jack wrench, safety flares, and traffic vest;
3. The vehicle is in a condition to make the trip;
4. First aid supplies are aboard; and
5. The radio system is working properly.

Prisoner Screens/Seatbelts – If possible, prisoners are to be transported in a vehicle with a screen. *Prisoners are to be strapped into their safety belts.* Deputies are not to lose sight of their prisoners.

When the situation warrants transport in a vehicle without a security screen, tactical seating arrangements should be executed to make up for the decrease in security. Consideration in seating arrangements will be based on the number of detainees to be transported and the number of transporting officers used.

Transport Interruptions – While transporting prisoners out of county, meal stops are to be made at random locations. Transport vehicles are prohibited from stopping to render emergency assistance on the roadway, unless the risk to third parties is both clear and grave, and the risk to the deputy and prisoner is minimal. The best procedure to render assistance is to call in the incident over the radio and request another unit to respond.

NOTE: *During transport, a prisoner is not allowed to communicate with anyone outside of those involved in the transportation.*

Transporting Prisoners from One Facility to Another – Transporting deputies are to follow the rules at the receiving facility regarding storage of firearms and receiving of prisoners. Additionally, deputies are to:

1. Place their firearms in a secure area for safekeeping prior to entering a holding cell
2. Remove restraining devices just prior to placing a prisoner in a cell
3. Deliver prisoner documentation to receiving officer
4. Obtain signature of receiving officer
5. Advise receiving officer of any potential medical or security hazards

Medical Transports – Prisoners transported for medical treatment are to be guarded as securely as any other prisoner.

If a prisoner is taken to the Emergency Room:

- An officer is to stay in contact with the prisoner at all times. Only under unusual circumstances will the prisoner be allowed out of the transporting officer's site.
- The prisoner should be restrained. If restraints are removed for treatment, caution should be exercised.
- When available, a second unit should respond to the ER to back-up the transport officer, as needed.

If a prisoner is admitted to the hospital:

- The deputy is to notify his supervisor to provide for continuous 24-hour security and relief, as needed.
- Shift supervisors will closely monitor the situation and establish frequent rotation of guards.
- Phone calls and visitor contact with the prisoner will be prohibited.
- Fraternalization with the prisoner will be prohibited.
- Any unusual occurrences will immediately be reported to the watch commander.

When a prisoner is released from the hospital or ER:

- The prisoner will be restrained, searched and transported to the Detention Facility.

- Information regarding the prisoner's condition and future treatment and/or medication should be obtained in writing from the attending physician.
- Treatment and medication information will be conveyed to the Detention Center intake.

Security Risks – At any time a prisoner to be transported to court is deemed a security risk, the supervisor of the transporting unit is to notify the concerned judge of the risk and recommend additional precautions. The same procedure applies when transporting a prisoner to another agency - the receiving agency is to be notified concerning a security risk.

ESCAPE:

Whenever a prisoner escapes from a deputy's custody, the deputy is to make every attempt to re-capture the prisoner, consistent with General Order 205 Use of Force. The following outlines steps immediately taken after an escape:

1. The deputy is to notify his supervisor and Communications of the incident, the location, and request assistance. Assistance can include additional deputies, canines, and Air Support.
2. Communications is to air a general broadcast describing the escapee, escape location, and offense the escapee is charged with.
3. Deputies may use their law enforcement authority in preventing an escape or in recovering an escapee in the State of South Carolina.

Escape in Another Jurisdiction – If an escape occurs while traveling through another jurisdiction, the deputy is to notify the law enforcement agency in that jurisdiction and request their assistance. After contacting the affected agency, the deputy is to notify Anderson County as soon as possible.

Escape Documentation – A full report is to be written and sent to the affected Division Commander for his review and comments. The incident is to be reviewed to determine if policy was followed and if a policy change would prevent the occurrence of another escape.

SPECIAL TRANSPORTS:

Prisoners of the Opposite Sex – Any time a deputy transports a prisoner of the opposite sex, he or she is to radio in the time of departure, time of arrival, departing mileage, and arriving mileage.

Juvenile Prisoners – Juveniles should not be transported in the same vehicle with adult prisoners.

Physically or Mentally Impaired Prisoners – The transporting deputy is to determine the special needs required for the prisoner and whether resources exist to fulfill them. In some cases, it may be necessary to transport by ambulance with the transport deputy riding inside as escort. In other cases, it may be necessary to transport medication with a prisoner.

Prisoners Injured Incidental to Arrest – If a prisoner is injured incidental to arrest or previous to arrest and has not received medical attention, the transporting deputy is to take the prisoner to the Emergency Room for

examination before arraignment. If a prisoner appears to be ill, a request that he or she be examined by medical personnel at the Detention Center is to be submitted to booking officers.

Handicapped Prisoners – Normally, restraining devices, such as handcuff and leg cuffs, are used when transporting prisoners. Transporting deputies may use their discretion in applying restraining devices on handicapped prisoners after examining the following factors:

1. Seriousness of offense
2. Permanent or temporary handicap
3. Prisoner's mental state
4. Potential threat to transporting deputy if left unrestrained
5. Potential for escape

When transporting sick or injured prisoners, the use of restraining devices is governed by the factors considered for handicapped persons.

Special Event Transports – The Detention Center is primarily responsible for transporting Anderson County Detention Center inmates in special situations such as funerals and hospital visits; however, in the rare case that a Detention Center deputy is not available, the Sheriff's Office will transport prisoners to medical facilities (including Mental Health facilities) on detention orders.

For any transport from a facility other than the Detention Center, officers will follow the procedures referring to restraints and searches.

The Sheriff's Office will not transport prisoners to funerals due to the extreme risks posed to the officer and the community.

RESTRAINING DEVICES:

The following procedures will be followed when transporting prisoners:

1. The use of restraints shall be employed at all times.
2. Handcuffs, used during transport, are to be cuffed behind the back.
3. A prisoner is not to be handcuffed to any part of a vehicle.
4. Restraining devices are to be examined to ensure they are not so tight as to restrict the flow of blood.
5. Mentally disturbed persons pose a special hazard to transporting deputies. The use of a straitjacket is authorized whenever it appears the disturbed person is prone to violence. The use of a straitjacket is to be noted on transport documents.

NOTE: *When transporting a prisoner for an extended distance, a belly chain/belt may be used to secure the suspect's hands in front of him. Traveling for extended distances with cuffs behind the suspect's back can be very uncomfortable.*

TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT:

Vehicles used primarily (over 80%) for transporting prisoners and all marked patrol vehicles (except selected supervisor vehicles) are to be equipped with safety barriers to separate drivers from prisoners.

Vehicles used to transport prisoners, as described above, are to be modified by removing window cranks and door handles from rear compartments. Door release locks are to be shielded from access from the rear compartment or are to be operated from the front compartment of the vehicle or from the outside.

DOCUMENTATION:

Each prisoner transported from a detention or prison facility must be positively identified as the person to be moved. Booking records and numbers assigned to the prisoner are to be verified. If one is available, the transporting deputy is to view a photograph of the named prisoner.

Transportation documents are to include the following information:

1. Prisoner's name;
2. Facility prisoner number;
3. Court to be delivered to (if applicable);
4. Medical records (if applicable);
5. A detainer, if the prisoner is taken temporarily from one facility to another while awaiting trial;
6. A detainer, if the prisoner is taken to a state prison after sentencing on some charge(s) while still awaiting trial on additional charges;
7. An indictment with sentence, if the prisoner has been convicted and sentenced to serve a prison term;
8. A certified court order, if a judge has ordered a prisoner to be taken to a mental health facility for psychiatric evaluation;
9. A certified court order, if a juvenile has been remanded to the custody of a state juvenile facility;
10. A properly signed "Evidence of Agent's Authority to Act for Receiving State" form, if a prisoner is transported from out-of-state prison, under the Interstate Agreement on Detainers Act, to be tried on local charges;
11. Properly executed Governor's Rendition Warrant or Waiver of Extradition Affidavit, if a prisoner is returned from another state upon completion of extradition proceedings; and
12. Prisoner's personal property.

SECURITY PROBLEM DOCUMENTATION – The transporting deputy is to determine potential security problems the prisoner may present due to suicidal tendencies, personality disorders, or escape potential. Security problems are to be noted on the transport documents.

Approved by:
John S. Skipper, Jr., Sheriff