



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GENERAL ORDERS

DETAINEE TRANSPORTATION

PURPOSE:

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

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

Transportation concerns:

- Detainee safety.
- Detainee rights.
- Escape risk.
- Injury risk.
- Officer safety.

**SEARCHING OF
PATROL VEHICLES:**

All vehicles used to transport detainees will be searched prior to and at the completion of each shift. Vehicles used to transport detainees are to be searched prior to and after each transport. If an incident report exists, the search is to be documented.

**TRANSPORT
OPERATIONS:**

Detainee Search - A transporting deputy is legally responsible for the safety and custody of the detainee. Before accepting detainees 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 detainee.

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: 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.
5. The radio system is working.

Detainee Screens/Seatbelts - A deputy who is transporting a non-violent single detainee in an unscreened vehicle shall place the detainee, restrained in handcuffs (or waist chains, if issued) and leg

irons, in the right front passenger seat of the vehicle and secure the seatbelt with the doors locked.

This type of transport should only be facilitated when absolutely necessary. Deputies should be very cognizant of weapon control when transporting a detainee in this manner.

When two deputies are transporting a non-violent single detainee in an unscreened vehicle, deputies shall place the detainee, restrained in handcuffs (or waist chains, if issued) and leg irons, in the rear right passenger seat, secure the seatbelt and with the doors locked. The second deputy will sit in the rear seat directly behind the driver.

Violent detainees must be transported in patrol cars equipped with a safety barrier.

Patrol cars that are equipped with a safety barrier must transport the detainee in the back seat, doors locked and seat belted regardless whether violent or non-violent.

Seatbelt Lock- The use of a “Seatbeltlock” may be utilized for extra security when transporting both violent / non-violent prisoners / patients. The “ Seatbeltlock” device is universal and designed to fit most seatbelt mechanisms. The device is placed over the receiving buckle covering the seatbelt release, which prohibits the prisoner from releasing the seatbelt. Once the device is in place and the seatbelt locked, the seatbelt can be released with a long handcuff key or similar device.

In the event of an emergency, officers utilizing this device will be equipped with a cutting instrument designed to cut a seatbelt.

Transport Interruptions - Deputies have a duty of care while transporting a detainee to protect them from injury and to provide aid during a medical emergency. Deputies who interrupt transport for any reason are to notify communications and a supervisor immediately stating the reason for the interruption.

While transporting detainees 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 detainee is minimal. The best procedure to render assistance is to call in the incident over the radio and request another unit to respond.

During all transports, deputies should be aware of diversionary incidents that may divert transport personnel’s attention and place the detainee in jeopardy or enhance chances for escape.

During transport, a detainee is not allowed to communicate with anyone outside of those involved in the transportation.

Transporting Detainees from One Facility to Another –

Transporting deputies are to follow the rules at the receiving facility regarding storage of firearms and receiving of detainees.

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 detainee in a cell.
3. Deliver detainee documentation to receiving officer.
4. Obtain signature of receiving officer.
5. Advise receiving officer of any potential medical or security hazards.

Medical Transports - Detainees transported for medical treatment are to be guarded as securely as any other detainee. If a detainee is admitted to a medical facility, the deputy is to notify his supervisor to provide for continuous security and relief.

Security Risks - At any time a detainee 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 detainee to another agency - the receiving agency is to be notified concerning a security risk.

All extraditions will be conducted with a minimum of two full time deputies.

There may be occasions when transporting or extraditing a detainee that special considerations may need to be taken. If the detainee may be considered as a “High Risk” due to violent criminal past or an “Escape Risk”, may require additional personnel and/or equipment to complete the operation safely, effectively, and in a timely manner. Some of the factors to be considered when planning the logistics of this type of transport/extradition to be considered are as followed:

1. Nature of current charge and potential sentence.
 2. Violent Nature of the Offense
 3. Escape Risk
 4. Prior Criminal History (Assault on Police Officers, Resisting Arrest and other violent crimes)
 5. Method of Transport (Patrol Car, Transport Van, Air Unit, Commercial Airlines)
 6. If the detainee is a known gang member, or if the incident is gang related.
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7. The number of defendants to be moved at the same time.
8. Potential medical conditions and/or concerns of the detainee.

The date and time of the movement of these detainees will be confidential and will be released on a need to know basis to ensure the integrity of the operation as well as the safety and security of the officers, the suspect, and the public.

ESCAPE:

Whenever a detainee escapes from a deputy's custody, the deputy is to make every attempt to re-capture the detainee, consistent with General Order 205 Response to Resistance/Aggression. 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, the Canine Tracking Team, 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 Greenville 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:

Detainee of the Opposite Sex - Any time a deputy transports a detainee of the opposite sex, they are to radio in the time of departure, time of arrival, departing mileage, and arriving mileage. In cases when a deputy is out of radio range, communications will be notified via telephone.

Physically or Mentally Impaired Detainees - The transporting deputy is to determine the special needs required for the detainee 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 detainee.

Detainees Injured Incidental to Arrest - If a detainee is injured incidental to arrest, or previous to arrest, and has not received medical attention, the transporting deputy is to take the detainee to the Emergency Room for examination before arraignment. If a detainee 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 Detainees - Normally, restraining devices, such as handcuff and leg cuffs, are used when transporting detainees. Transporting deputies may use their discretion in applying restraining devices on handicapped detainees after examining the following factors:

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

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

Special Event Transports - Transportation of a detainee to special situations, such as funerals, visiting a critically ill person, or the reading of a will are not permitted.

RESTRAINING DEVICES:

Handcuffs are to be used when transporting detainees. A detainee's hands are to be cuffed behind the back. A detainee is not to be handcuffed to any part of a vehicle. Restraining devices are to be double-locked and examined to ensure they are not so tight as to restrict flow of blood.

Deputies who are issued waist/belly chains or belts may utilize those restraining devices in place of traditional handcuffs.

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.

TRANSPORT

EQUIPMENT:

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

As described above, vehicles used to transport detainees are to be modified by removing rear window cranks, deactivating rear-controls for power windows, and by removing door handles from rear compartments. Door release locks are to be shielded from access in the rear compartment or are to be operated from the front compartment of the vehicle or from the outside.

DOCUMENTATION:

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

Transportation documents are to include the following information:

1. Detainee's name.
2. Facility detainee number.
3. Court to be delivered to (if applicable).
4. Medical records (if applicable).
5. A detainer, if the detainee is taken temporarily from one facility to another while awaiting trial.
6. A detainer, if the detainee is transported to a state prison after sentencing on some charge(s) while still awaiting trial on additional charges.
7. An indictment with sentence, if the detainee has been convicted and sentenced to serve a prison term.
8. A certified court order, if a judge has ordered a detainee 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 detainee 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 detainee is returned from another state upon completion of extradition proceedings.
12. Detainee's personal property.

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


Hobart Lewis, Sheriff