

CITY OF BARSTOW

CALIFORNIA

POLICIES and PROCEDURES MANUAL:

POLICE

Subject:

TRANSPORTATION AND BOOKING OF FIELD ARRESTEES

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this order is to establish recommended procedures relative to the arrest, transportation, and booking process. Additionally, this policy will serve to facilitate the efficient processing of arrestees from the time of arrest to the time of booking and to ensure that arrestees are properly restrained and their movements controlled and restricted. THIS IS ESSENTIAL IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ARRESTEE'S SAFETY, THE SAFETY OF OUR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, AND THAT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

HANDCUFFING AND RESTRAINING OF ARRESTED PERSONS

As a general rule, all adult suspects placed under arrest wherein booking is necessary and appropriate, should be handcuffed, hands behind body, immediately following their arrest and prior to transportation for booking. The use of handcuff restraints is desirable from the standpoint of officer safety and to reduce a suspect's opportunities to escape from custody. Demonstratively dangerous and/or combative suspects may, if circumstances warrant their use, be further restrained about the ankles using "plasticuffs", handcuffs, or Department-issued leg restraints. Extremely combative suspects and/or persons alleged to require observation per Section 5150 of the Welfare and Institutions Code may, at the discretion of the arresting or transporting officer, be restrained utilizing the previously delineated restraining devices and/or "soft restraints", leg cuffs, or other appropriate, humane, restraint devices available to said officer(s).

In using any restraint device, reasonable care must be utilized in the deployment of such devices to ensure that they are placed on the suspect in a secure manner. An equal consideration shall be the use of such devices in a manner designed to minimize trauma or injury to the suspect.

When it is determined, at the officer's discretion, that the suspect(s) to be transported are of tender, or youthful age; aged; infirm; handicapped; or suffering from injury or illness, such persons may be exempted from the general rule regarding the handcuffing of suspects. However, no suspect, once arrested and detained, shall be permitted to leave the officer's sight.

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METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION

The period of time during which a suspect is being transported from point of arrest to the police facility or to a jail facility for booking is critical. It is during this time that suspects may attempt to assault officers, escape from custody, or inflict injuries upon themselves due to their arrest. Transportation of persons in custody should be performed in an expeditious manner. When transported in a police vehicle, arrested persons should be placed within the transport vehicle in a secure fashion.

Combative and/or dangerous suspects should be given special consideration during the transportation process. The use of a "caged unit" and/or a two-officer unit for transportation of such persons is recommended.

BOOKING OF ARRESTEES

Unless necessitated by the need to secure implied consent chemical tests or to have a Barstow Police Investigator immediately interview a suspect, all adult arrestees requiring formal booking should be transported from the location of arrest to the appropriate jail facility. Transportation of such suspects to the Barstow Police Department prior to transportation to the ultimate location of booking serves no constructive purpose. Such a practice merely causes a delay in booking and loss of availability of the transporting/booking officer for an excessive period of time. Such a practice also detracts from security considerations, increases the opportunities for a suspect to escape, and increases the risk of injury to Department personnel. The booking of adults into the San Bernardino County Jail, Barstow Substation requires only the completion of a booking slip. That form can be quickly completed at the jail without returning to the Barstow Police Department prior to transportation to the jail.

Adults detained for 72-hour psychiatric observation at San Bernardino County Medical Center shall be transported directly from the location of apprehension to the Barstow Police Department. Necessary forms and paperwork can be prepared at the Department and sent to the San Bernardino County Medical Center with the transporting ambulance service.

Adults arrested for misdemeanor crimes for which booking into a jail facility is mandatory should be transported directly from the location of arrest to San Bernardino County Jail, Barstow Substation Booking forms should be completed at the jail.

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JUVENILE DETAINEES

Juveniles detained by the Barstow Police Department and who warrant detention at Juvenile Hall should be immediately transported from location of arrest to the Barstow Police Department. Detention petitions should be completed there and clearance obtained. Other required reports should be completed prior to the end of the reporting officer(s) duty shift. Copies of such reports shall be transported to Juvenile Hall as soon as possible. Under no circumstances shall such reports be received by Juvenile Hall more than 24 hours following detention of the juvenile at Juvenile Hall.

Detained juveniles who do not require booking into Juvenile Hall should, if possible, be released to their parents at the Police Department. If such a course of action is not possible, the juvenile may be transported home and released to the parents by the reporting officer(s). While in custody, the juvenile shall be fingerprinted.

DETENTION OF ARRESTEES AT THE BARSTOW POLICE DEPARTMENT

The basic premise of the preceding sections of this procedure has been that arrestees will not normally be transported to the Barstow Police Department for either booking or pre-booking. In those instances wherein the transportation of an arrestee to the Barstow Police Department is necessary, such person(s) should be separated from those portions of the Police Department designed for general use. Thus, arrestees should not be temporarily detained at locations within the Police Department other than the holding cells. The Briefing Room and the Report Writing area should not be used for even the temporary housing of arrested persons.

CONCLUSION

Persons arrested by this Department shall be transported to secure jail facilities as soon as possible following their arrest. Persons arrested and eligible for legal release from custody prior to formal booking should be released as soon as possible following their arrest. Unnecessary delays in the booking and/or release process constitutes a less than cost-effective use of the arresting/transporting officer(s) time and increases the risk of escape and/or the build-up of hostility on the part of the arrested persons.

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