

Transporting Persons in Custody

518.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for transporting persons who are in the custody of the Sonoma County Probation Department.

This policy does not pertain to youth in custody at Juvenile Hall. See Juvenile Hall Transportation policy for further guidance on residents in custody. Additional guidance can be found in the Medical Aid and Response Policy.

518.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Sonoma County Probation Department to make reasonable efforts to protect the safety of persons in custody while they are being transported.

518.3 CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Probation Officer or authorized designee is responsible for reviewing the safety and restraint systems for all vehicles used to transport persons in custody. The review shall ensure the restraint systems comply with the law and shall determine whether they reasonably meet the needs of the Department. Safety systems should allow for transporting members to be in constant and reasonably clear audio contact with each person being transported.

The Chief Probation Officer or authorized designee should establish related procedures for safely transporting persons in custody who have their legs restrained in some manner other than leg restraints.

518.4 TRANSPORTING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members transporting a person in custody in a department vehicle should ensure:

- (a) All areas of the vehicle accessible to a person in custody are searched before and after each transport.
- (b) All persons in custody are searched prior to a transport.
- (c) All persons are properly restrained in the vehicle's safety restraint system in a seated position.
- (d) Any person behaving in a manner so violent or uncooperative that the person cannot or will not sit upright is considered as possibly being in need of medical aid, see the Medical Aid and Response Policy.
- (e) A verbal welfare check is made with a person in custody every 10 minutes or less.
- (f) Transport is accomplished in a direct and timely manner.
- (g) The same consideration is shown to a person in custody as would be reasonably shown to any other passenger during transport (e.g., avoiding loud or objectionable music, rough rides, excessive heat or cold).

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- (h) Persons suspected of having a communicable disease are transported in compliance with the exposure control plan.
- (i) Persons in custody are transported individually when practical, or within their own compartment of a multiple-compartment vehicle, unless supervisor approval is received based on unusual circumstances.
- (j) Persons in custody should not be transported in vehicles without safety barriers.
- (k) Dispatch is advised of:
 - 1. The time when a transport begins and the vehicle's mileage.
 - 2. The time, vehicle's mileage, and reason for any stops when conducting local transports.
 - 3. The time of arrival at the destination and the vehicle's mileage.
- (l) Reasonable efforts are made to prevent inappropriate conversations between persons being transported (e.g., demeaning or insulting language) or conversations between a person being transported and someone outside the vehicle.
- (m) Sufficient visual observation and communication is maintained to determine whether a person is experiencing any stress or trauma during the transport of:
 - 1. Persons who were placed in any restraints beyond just handcuffs due to their violent or uncooperative behavior (see the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy).
 - 2. Persons wearing a spit hood.
 - 3. Persons who are a suspected suicide risk.
 - 4. Persons who are ill or injured.

518.5 PROHIBITIONS

Transporting members should not:

- (a) Transport juveniles with adults.
- (b) Transport females with males. When possible, transgender or intersex persons should be transported with persons of the gender they identify with if circumstances do not allow for single transport.
- (c) Transport persons with known hostilities toward each other together, such as mutual combatants or rival gang members.
- (d) Leave the vehicle unattended with a person in custody inside.
- (e) Leave a vehicle with its keys or an unsecured weapon inside with a person in custody in the vehicle.
- (f) Handcuff a person to any part of a vehicle.
- (g) Place a person in custody in an unreasonable risk of harm (e.g., engaging in a pursuit, responding to a high-risk incident).
- (h) Allow any person who is not in custody (i.e., friends, family) to have contact with or be in close proximity to the person in custody.

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- (i) Allow any food, drink, or other consumables to be given to the person in custody by anyone other than department personnel or receiving agency personnel.

518.6 SPECIFIC TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

518.6.1 TRANSPORTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

When transporting a person with a disability, a transporting member should request assistance as necessary to transport the person in a reasonable and safe manner. The transporting member should ensure that any special equipment (e.g., canes, wheelchairs, prosthetics) is transported in such a manner that it not be damaged or pose a security threat.

518.6.2 TRANSPORTING ILL OR INJURED PERSONS

See the Medical Aid and Response Policy.

518.6.3 DELIVERING A PERSON IN CUSTODY TO A FACILITY

Members delivering persons to other facilities (e.g., hospital, other agency, court, jail) should:

- (a) Secure weapons in a manner mandated by the facility or in a manner that is appropriate for the facility.
- (b) Remove restraints in coordination with facility personnel.
- (c) Deliver the appropriate documentation concerning the person to facility personnel.
- (d) Notify the receiving facility of any known medical or safety issues, including whether restraints beyond handcuffs were applied due to the person's violent or uncooperative behavior.

518.6.4 LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORTS

Absent exigent circumstances, members should only stop during long-distance transports for:

- Fuel
- Meals
- Restroom breaks

Where practicable, time-stamped receipts for purchases should be retained and all stops should be logged in a manner that includes the following:

- The time when a transport begins and the vehicle's mileage
- The time, vehicle's mileage, and reason for any stops
- The time of arrival at the destination and the vehicle's mileage

518.6.5 TRANSPORT VAN

A member trained on the safety and restraint systems of a transport van should be present during its use for transporting a person in custody. Training regarding the use of the van's safety and restraint systems shall be followed.

A member should assist persons getting into and out of the transport van to avoid falls.

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518.7 TRAINING

The member's assigned supervisor will ensure that members receive appropriate training on proper procedures for transporting persons in custody.