	Abilene Police Department Operating Procedures		
	Subject: <i>Prisoner Handling</i>	Issued: 10/019/2011	TBP: 10.01, 10.02, 10.10, 10.12

Restraining Devices

Handcuffs will be used only in the manner as instructed by the Training Division and will be used on all persons taken into custody including persons taken for an appearance before a magistrate. Exceptions should only be made for a known medical conditions, disabled persons or very young prisoners.

Officers should avoid placing individuals in handcuffs when the individual is not yet under arrest. There may be certain situations, however, where handcuffing a person who is not yet under arrest may be necessary.

Other Restraints

Only Department approved methods of restraint will be used. Officers shall not use a method of restraint until trained in its use.

Transporting Prisoners (TBP 10.01, 10.02, 10.10)

Whenever a prisoner is to be transported, whether juvenile or adult, the arresting officer shall conduct a thorough and systematic search of the prisoner for weapons and contraband. Officers will thoroughly search their patrol car for weapons and contraband prior to and immediately after transport of a prisoner.

An ambulance will be used to transport a prisoner with a serious illness or severe injury.


Juveniles will not be transported with adult prisoners.

Officers shall be responsible for safely guarding such personal property as a prisoner may have in their possession or under their control at the time of arrest or detention. Officers shall maintain control over the property until the prisoner booking process. At that time, the property will be turned over to jail personnel.

An officer, when receiving a prisoner from another officer or detention facility, shall search the prisoner carefully and shall immediately take possession of all weapons and evidence. If, for any reason, a prisoner has not been searched before being turned over to other officers, the arresting officer shall notify the officers receiving the prisoner.

Whenever a prisoner is transported in a police vehicle, the transporting officer shall properly secure the seatbelt on the prisoner unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Physically handicapped prisoners will be transported in a police vehicle when possible. If not possible, other methods should be taken into account and advice from a supervisor should be sought.

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Officers should constantly monitor prisoners during transport to observe any changes in mental or physical attitude. Should the need arise, an officer shall summon medical assistance to their location. Officers should not transport prisoners in need of medical assistance in a police vehicle.

Medical Assistance for Prisoners (TBP 10.12)

Officers shall summon medical assistance for ill or injured prisoners regardless of location. The preferred method is to contact dispatch via radio; if a radio is not accessible, then by phone or any other means necessary.

Officers may provide medical assistance to the level of their training until more qualified personnel arrive to assist.

Booking Prisoners

Officers are responsible for a prisoner’s safety once they are taken into custody and until they are released to the Taylor County Detention Facility. Officers will book adult prisoners directly into the Taylor County Detention Facility. Arresting officers are responsible for the completion and routing of all appropriate paperwork.

Officers Responsible for Prisoner

When an individual is arrested, they will be taken to the county booking station. All property will be taken from the prisoner and inventoried by the county booking officer. It will be the responsibility of the arresting officer to place the prisoner in the appropriate holding cell.