

WOLFEBOOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

SOP 4.11

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[Note: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Wolfeboro Police Department and, as provided by RSA 516:36, is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.]

By Order of:
Dean J. Rondeau, Chief of Police

PRISONER TRANSPORT

Policy

Safety is the most important concern when transporting prisoners

Officers need to keep in mind the:

- Safety and well-being of themselves and others
 - Proper restraints of the prisoner to prevent escape or injuries, and
 - Prisoner's safety and rights
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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for transporting prisoner's and covers:

- Cruisers
 - Searches
 - Restraint
 - Seating
 - Juveniles
 - Commercial Air Transportation
 - Communications
 - Transfers
 - Medical Considerations
 - Escapes
 - Special Situations
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Searches

There are three types of searches that are related to prisoner transportation. They are:

Cruisers shall be searched "before and after" transporting prisoners for contraband, weapons, evidence or instruments of a crime. It is mandatory that cruisers be searched at the start of each shift.

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Individuals in custody are to be searched for weapons and contraband prior to being placed in a cruiser and/or when an officer takes custody.
Never assume that someone else has searched a prisoner.

Opposite gender it may be necessary for an officer to search a member of the opposite sex. Such a search shall be conducted professionally and be limited to the minimal invasion of privacy necessary. At other times it may be more prudent to request assistance by an officer of the same gender as the prisoner or conduct the search in the presence of others.

Restraining Devices Only issued restraining devices may be utilized and include handcuffs, flex (type) cuffs, leg irons, waist belts, leg straps, and spit hoods.

Restraint

- All prisoners being transported shall be handcuffed with the hands behind their back, unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise.
- Handcuffs should be double locked to prevent inadvertent tightening to help avoid causing or aggravating injuries. (NH Standards)
- Flex cuffs shall only be utilized when no handcuffs are available and should be secured tight, but not to cause injury and removed as quickly as possible.
- Prisoners should **not** be handcuffed or restrained to a part of the vehicle (except for the use of the seat belt).
- Prisoners shall not be handcuffed to each other except in extreme emergencies
- Except in emergency situations, the following should not be transported together:
 - Male & female.
 - Juvenile and adults.

When a prisoner....	Then the officer may.....
Cannot be handcuffed behind the back	Use alternative methods
Is to be transported for an extended period	Handcuff the prisoner in front, and use a waist device to secure the hands to the waist
Actions indicate that they may be a threat	Restrain the prisoner's legs NOTE: prisoners shall not have their legs bound to their hands; a leg strap should be used.

Restraints shall not be removed until the prisoner is in a secured facility.

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Seating

For safety, prisoners must be under constant observation, except.

- to maintain the safe operation of the vehicle.
- during an emergency to protect the safety of others.

They should be made as comfortable as possible but secured to the maximum degree.

All transportation of prisoners shall be in a marked cruiser with a safety barrier, the following guidelines should be followed in all cases especially in **emergency circumstances** when an unmarked vehicle or a vehicle that is not equipped with a safety barrier must be utilized.

If the cruiser has.....	Then prisoner(s) should be placed.....
A safety barrier	In the rear compartment, using the right seat first
One officer, one prisoner, no safety barrier	In the right front seat
One officer, two prisoners, no safety barrier	One in the right front seat, one in the right rear seat
Two officers, one prisoner, no safety barrier	In the right front seat with the other officer behind
Two officers, two prisoners, no safety barrier	One in the front, one in the right rear seats, with the other officer seated behind the driver

- Seat belts shall be used to secure prisoners.

Transporting

- Officers will not stop to provide law enforcement services unless it is a matter to protect life or personal injury.
- Prisoners are not allowed to communicate with others while in custody and being transported. Attorneys may converse with their client at the station.
- Unnecessary conversation shall be avoided.
- Officer shall use caution at all times and maintain control and observations of the prisoner.

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Risks or problems	Officers shall...
Suicidal or high-risk prisoners	notify the receiving agency of the details of the problem
Male, Females and Juveniles	provide starting mileage & location as well as ending mileage to Dispatcher
Special Situations (funerals, visiting ill family members)	Will not transport (long distance and Special Situations are handled by State Police or Sheriffs Department)
Meals*	Will not provide except: Long distance and exceeding four hours Meals provided in cruiser (carry out food)
Toilet facilities	Only departmental facilities Long Distance – use other police facilities if possible – if not check and maintain custody

Identification of Prisoners

Prior to taking custody of a prisoner at a detention facility or Court:

- Their identity should be compared with the accompanied paperwork.
- Comparison of photos to prisoner – if possible.
- Identification papers and any documents shall accompany the prisoner.
- Escape or Suicidal potential should be noted on the paperwork.

Sick, Injured or Handicapped

Supervisor shall be notified

Handicapped	Ambulance may be utilized Officer will remain in the ambulance Restraining devices – discretion of the Officer Medication or walking devices kept in officers' control
Sick or injured (during or after arrest)	Medical treatment sought immediately, prior to transport. Restraining devices- discretion of Officer Use of Force report made if required

Court

- If a court other than Ossipee, they will be contacted to determine their security procedures prior to transportation.
- Officer will follow their security policies.
- If the court policy dictates that the officer guards the prisoner, this will be done until the court either releases or requires the officer to transport the prisoner to a holding facility.

Medical

Extreme caution should be taken to prevent escape and that access to needles, tools, etc. is limited:

- Prisoner should be isolated from other patients.
- Officer must maintain immediate control of prisoner.
- Restraints should be removed for treatment, if requested by treating physician.
- Supervisor shall be notified.
- The supervisor will determine if a guard is necessary or release on summons or bail can be arranged.
- Officer shall not leave the facility until relieved.

Detention Facility

Officers shall obtain facilities procedures prior to arrival.

- Firearms secured at designated area.
- Restraining devices removed by direction of the facilities staff.
- Documentation submitted to facility.
- Signature of receiving officer obtained on transaction document.
- Potential medical, suicidal or escape problems must be provided to the facilities staff.

Escapes

If a prisoner escapes

Position	Responsibilities
Transporting officer	IN WOLFEBORO Notify Dispatch Location of escape Prisoners' description Direction of travel If armed Other information pertinent to assist in capture Make every effort to apprehend subject. If unable to do so – preserve the scene
	OUTSIDE WOLFEBORO – notify Dispatch & Local area dispatch – provide same data Assist the jurisdiction – in any way to capture the subject- according to their directives Report required in both cases
Dispatcher	Provide BOLO to all areas

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	Notify a supervisor Assist any jurisdiction with additional information
Supervisor	Respond to the scene Investigate escape to see if guidelines followed
Chief or designee	Review Incident

Reports

Incident Report	All members involved in the incident including the supervisor by end of shift
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