

Mechanical Restraints

304.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes standards for the use of handcuffs and other restraints during detentions, arrests, and transportation.

304.2 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all sworn Department personnel working outside of Institutions. A separate policy and procedure applies to officers working in Institutions.

304.3 POLICY

The San Diego County Probation Department authorizes the use of restraint devices in accordance with this policy and the associated procedures, Policy 300 Use of Force, and department training. Restraint devices will not be used to punish, to display authority or as a show of force. Only employees who have successfully completed department-approved training on the use of restraint devices described in this policy and the associated procedures are authorized to use these devices.

Authorized officers must comply with Department procedures for use of restraints generally and specific requirements for juveniles, pregnant individuals, and disabled persons.

When handcuffs or other restraints are used, the following general rules will be followed:

- Handcuffs, including temporary nylon or plastic cuffs, may be used to restrain a person's hands during detentions, arrests, and transportation.
- Except in exigent circumstances, restrained persons must be continuously monitored and must not be attached to fixed objects.
- Officers must search a detainee prior to transport and should consider the use of a department-authorized auxiliary restraint device when transporting in an uncaged vehicle.
- Individuals being detained may also be restrained under certain circumstances as described in Mechanical Restraints Procedures Section 302.8.
- Persons who are known to be pregnant or in recovery after delivery should be restrained in the least restrictive manner that is effective for officer safety and the safety of the individual being restrained.

304.4 DEFINITIONS

Auxiliary restraint devices include transport belts, waist chains, transportation chains, leg shackles, leg chains, soft ties, plastic/flex cuffs, hobble straps and other similar devices.

304.5 REFERENCES

For further guidance, see Field Services Procedure Manual—Mechanical Restraints.

San Diego County Probation Department

Field Services Policy Manual

Mechanical Restraints

Refer to Institutional Services Policy Manual—Restraints for guidance regarding the use of mechanical restraints in juvenile institutions.