



**General Order: 5.27  
USE OF THE "HOBBLE" RESTRAINT**

Effective: March 5, 1997  
Last Revised: October 26, 2016

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this order is to establish a uniform policy on the various use of "hobble restraints", and the method of transporting violent combative prisoners who have been handcuffed and a hobble restraint applied.

**POLICY**

The "Hobble Strap" may be used under three levels of restraint which will be referred to as "Minimum Restraint", "Moderate Restraint and "Maximum Restraint'.

Once a suspect is subdued and handcuffed, and hobble restraints are placed on their legs, they must be rolled onto their side and left in that position until transportation. If any medical problems are observed with the arrestee, paramedics shall be requested and the arrestee provided with the appropriate medical attention.

An arrestee who has the hobble attached, should be placed in an upright seated position during transportation. If this cannot reasonably be accomplished, the arrestee should be transported by ambulance. An officer must accompany the arrestee in an ambulance if this mode or transportation is utilized. The arrestee will be monitored at all times while the hobble restraint is attached.

**PROCEDURE**

The hobble strap may be used under three different levels of restraint:

Level 1: Minimum Restraint. In this method, the hobble cord will be placed around the waist and attached to the handcuffs, preventing the arrestee from "slipping" the handcuffs to the front of his body.

Level 2: Moderate Restraint. In this method, the hobble restraint will be placed around the thighs to reduce the opportunity for the arrestee to flee on foot, and limiting his/her ability to kick.

Level 3: Maximum Restraint. In this method, the hobble strap is placed around the ankles of the arrestee and is designed for maximum restraint of a prisoner that is combative and requires restraint of both hands and feet.

Either a single strap or double strap technique is authorized at this level. Arrestees transported in the maximum restraint position should be transported in a seated upright position. If this cannot reasonably be accomplished, the arrestee should be transported by ambulance and accompanied by an officer. While the hobble restraint is applied in the maximum level, the arrestee should be monitored by an officer until the restraint is removed.

The hobble restraint device shall never be secured, hooked, wrapped, or wound onto the handcuffs of the subject during an application of level 2 (Moderate Restraint) and level 3 (Maximum Restraint) because doing so can cause positional asphyxiation, which may lead to serious injury or death.

If any medical problems are observed by the officer at anytime, paramedics will be requested or the appropriate medical attention provided.

Anytime the maximum restraint level is used by an officer, the circumstances requiring the use shall be documented in a police report. In addition, a supervisor shall be notified as soon as possible, or at least by the end of the shift.