

Georgia Department of Public Safety

Policy Manual

SUBJECT HANDCUFFS	POLICY NUMBER 6.05
DISTRIBUTION ALL EMPLOYEES	DATE REVISED 3/9/2015

6.05.1 Purpose

To provide policy and procedures for the proper use of restraints.

6.05.2 Policy

It is the policy of the Georgia Department of Public Safety that all individuals shall be properly restrained when in custody and charged with a crime. This policy is for the safety of the sworn member and the arrestee and to prevent escape. While circumstances may allow exceptions to this policy, guidelines for those exceptions are provided and members shall be prepared to justify any exceptions.

6.05.3 Procedures

A. Carrying

1. A single handcuff case shall be worn on the opposite side from the duty weapon on the gun belt. At the sworn member's discretion, a second handcuff case may be worn on the gun belt.
2. Sworn members may possess a second set of handcuffs/Flex cuffs. The department-issued key shall be capable of unlocking the secondary handcuffs.
3. Sworn members shall carry one handcuff key on the whistle chain so it will be readily accessible and a second in another location.

B. Application

1. Control the suspect by having them face away.
2. Do not apply knee pressure to the back of the neck for prone cuffing control.
3. Maintain a safe stance that will remove any opportunity for the suspect to gain control of the duty weapon.
4. Keep the suspect physically off-balance so they have less chance to resist.
5. Place handcuffs on suspect behind their back with their thumbs facing upward and palms facing outward.
6. Always double lock the handcuffs.

7. Check that the cuffs are not too tight.
8. Search the suspect after handcuffing. To ensure safety, all subjects shall be handcuffed before being searched.
9. Do not place restraints on a subject with their hands in front.
10. Unless exceptional circumstances exist, sworn members shall not handcuff a subject to fixed objects such as posts, vehicles, buildings, etc.

C. Exceptions

1. When a subject cannot put their hands behind their back due to obesity or inflexibility, the sworn member should try locking two pairs of handcuffs together to allow for the subject's physical condition.
2. If a subject has an injured arm or is missing an arm, the uninjured arm should be handcuffed to a belt loop or waist restraint.
3. If the subject appears to have any illnesses where handcuffing would cause further injury, the sworn member shall weigh the risks involved in deciding the need for restraints.
4. When the subject's age, physical condition, or physical limitations indicate handcuffing is not appropriate.

D. Transporting Prisoners

1. Carefully place the individual into the patrol car.
2. Individuals shall not be transported lying face down unless someone is in a position to continuously monitor their breathing.

E. Other Restraining Devices (Flex Cuffs)

1. May be used in multiple arrest situations or to secure the legs of unruly prisoners.
2. Shall only be removed with cutting pliers or bolt cutters. Knives shall never be used because they pose a great danger to the member and the suspect.
3. Never "Hog Tie" a suspect (a technique where the suspect's feet are tied to their hands behind a subject's back.) Positional restraint hypoxia, a condition that may result in death, has been linked to this procedure. A better technique is to restrain the feet and then secure the strap to the subject's waist.