



## **Precautionary Measures in Making Arrests**

### **I. PURPOSE**

In making an arrest, the Officer must use discretion regarding his own safety and the security of his prisoner, always remembering that he is responsible for the prisoner, and for doing whatever is necessary to deliver him safely to the office and/or Detention Center.

### **II. POLICY**

The following general rules should always be kept in mind whenever an arrest is made:

- A. Whenever feasible, Officers should obtain assistance to arrest a person known or believed to be armed or dangerous.
- B. Guard against carelessness when making an arrest, watch the prisoner's every move. Be alert and treat every case individually.
- C. Always consider the possibility of the accused being armed; take no chances whatsoever, even after the prisoner has been carefully searched.
- D. Prevent the prisoner from putting his hands in his pockets at any time. He should be warned against doing this immediately upon his arrest. Even the most seemingly innocent object may be used as an offensive weapon by the prisoner.
- E. Never underestimate the person arrested; the apparently harmless may be the most dangerous.
- F. Keep the prisoner in front of you; maintaining physical control. Never allow him/her to stand behind you, or at your side where they may seize your gun or instruments which could be used as weapons.
- G. Avoid unnecessary conversation with a prisoner. Give orders with authority, brevity and clarity.
- H. Command the situation. Don't antagonize the prisoner or handle them with unnecessary roughness.
- I. Whenever an arrested person is interrogated, fingerprinted, palm printed, photographed, or subject to a process in any manner, all personnel involved will secure their weapon either in a weapons locker or the trunk of their vehicle.

## **General Order No. 8-1 (Cont.)**

- J. Officers will use the appropriate method of restraint, i.e., handcuffs, flex-cuffs, leg irons, etc. The method chosen should establish a safe atmosphere for the officer considering the circumstances of the incident, behavior of the arrestee, etc..

### **III. TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS**

- A. When possible before transporting a prisoner, a review of available information databases should be conducted that would indicate a possible need for additional security measures being taken with the prisoner. This would include, but is not necessarily limited to, a review of any caution codes listed in MILES/NCIC.
- B. When feasible, officers should obtain assistance to transport a prisoner when warranted for security reasons.
- C. When not feasible, additional restraint devices should be utilized.
- D. It is the transporting Officer's responsibility to have all prisoners searched before the transport is begun. It should not be assumed that a prisoner is unarmed because he/she was in the custody of another law enforcement officer or have been in a correctional institution.
- E. When transporting a prisoner of the opposite sex or a known homosexual of the same sex as the transporting Officer, the Officer will notify the Caroline County Emergency Communications Center of his/her vehicle mileage at the beginning and the end of the transport.
- F. When radio transmissions are prohibited by distance the Officer will notify the Caroline County Emergency Communications Center by phone with the prisoners name, the vehicle mileage and expected departure time.
- G. All individuals in custody will be restrained through the use of handcuffs or flex-cuffs utilized to the rear, except under the following circumstances:
  - 1. When precluded by physical deformity or injury.
  - 2. During a lengthy transport.
  - 3. When prohibited by court order.
  - 4. When the arresting Officer determines that handcuffing to the rear would be detrimental to the exchange of information deemed necessary by the Officer.
- H. Handcuffs applied to prisoners are required to be double locked and checked for tightness. Officers will recheck the handcuffs if a prisoner states that they are too tight.
- I. When transported in a patrol vehicle, the prisoner, if deemed advisable by the Officer will be properly restrained and situated in the right front seat wearing the seatbelt and shoulder harness. If it is necessary to transport more than one prisoner, an additional Officer will sit behind the driver to increase security. If there are two (2) Officers transporting a prisoner in the same patrol vehicle, the second Officer will sit behind the right front passenger/prisoner.

- J. If the patrol vehicle is equipped with a prisoner transport cage, then the prisoner will be transported in the rear seat.