

**FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**SOP NUMBER: 517a
SUBJECT: USE OF RESTRAINTS ON
PREGNANT INMATES**

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the use of restraints when caring for pregnant inmates.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office that:

- A. Whenever possible, pregnant inmates in *active labor* will not have restraints utilized. In cases of documented security risks, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office will utilize procedures outlined within this policy.
- B. Pregnant inmates in the care and custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office will have restraints used as appropriate, according to the guidelines and procedures outlined in this policy, providing there is not an over-riding security risk.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Inmates known to be pregnant who are escorted within the facility normally shall not be restrained. If circumstances dictate that it is necessary to restrain the inmate, then the inmate shall be handcuffed in front. Waist chains/belts shall not be used.
- B. Inmates known to be pregnant and are transported outside of the ADC shall be handcuffed in front. Waist chains/belts shall not be used.
- C. Inmates known to be pregnant who are in a facility for medical treatment unrelated to labor and delivery, will be restrained in the least restrictive method necessary in consultation with the medical professional. Waist chains/belts shall not be used.
- D. No restraints will be used during labor and delivery unless an individualized determination has been made that more restrictive restraints are needed for security reasons.
- E. During postpartum recovery, the inmate shall be restrained in the least restrictive method (i.e., one ankle or one arm). This will allow for the mother's safe handling of her infant and mother infant bonding.
- F. If the determination is made that the inmate is a flight risk, danger to herself or others, or the totality of the circumstances creates a serious security risk and it is deemed that more restrictive restraints are needed during a transport, labor or delivery or, postpartum recovery:
 - 1. Staff shall notify a supervisor as soon as reasonably possible.
 - 2. An incident report shall be generated indicating the reason for the restraints and the type of restraints used.
 - 3. The report will be submitted to a supervisor no later than the conclusion of the shift.
- G. Use of leg/ankle restraints is not recommended. In the event their use is required by security staff, they should be applied in the following manner:
 - 1. The pregnant inmate should be seated inside the transport vehicle before restraints are applied;

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2. Restraints should be removed prior to the pregnant inmate exiting the vehicle.
- H. In the event that the security of the pregnant inmate requires the use of ankle restraints, precautions should be taken to keep the pregnant inmate and the fetus as safe as possible, (for example, the inmate patient should be a "hands-on" escort).
- I. Restraints shall be immediately removed upon request of any doctor, nurse, or other health professional treating the inmate if the restraints present a threat to the health or the life of the inmate or child.



**STACEY A. KINCAID
SHERIFF**

**01/08/2015
DATE APPROVED**

**02/04/2015
EFFECTIVE DATE**