



# PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CITIZEN INFORMATION BULLETIN #5 DETAINEE AND PRISONER CONSTRAINTS

1. The purpose of handcuffs and flex cuffs is to provide the arresting/transporting officer greater control over a situation and an individual.
2. Handcuffs and flex cuffs shall be applied if an officer reasonably believes:
  - A. A detained individual may harm the officer or another person,
  - B. A detained individual may harm themselves, and/or
  - C. A detained individual will attempt to escape.
3. All detainees and prisoners will be handcuffed or flex cuffed behind their backs, palm out. Handcuffs will be double-locked. (Double-locking prevents the cuffs from tightening through the movement of the detainee or prisoner.)

**EXCEPTION:** The only exceptions will be for medically sound reasons or when it is impractical.

**NOTE:** Prior to transporting non-violent children 11 years of age and under, the transporting officer will contact a police supervisor who will determine whether handcuffs should be applied and whether the child should be transported via an emergency patrol wagon or a radio patrol car. Supervisors shall base their decisions upon the best interest of the child under the circumstances.

Under no circumstances shall children 8 years of age or under be transported or detained in an emergency patrol wagon. Should it be necessary for any child 8 years of age or under to be transported to a police facility, every attempt will be made to have a parent or lawful custodian transport the child to the police facility prior to utilizing a radio patrol car.

4. Finally, the paramount concerns when using handcuffs and flex cuffs are:
  - A. The safety of the officer in controlling the situation
  - B. The safe transportation of the detainee/prisoner
  - C. The protection of the public

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