

	DELMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT	
	Policy 7.9 Prisoner Restraint Chair	
	Effective Date: 04/01/15	Replaces: N/A
	Approved: <u>Ivan Barkley</u> Chief of Police	
	Reference: DPAC: 3.4.5	

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Delmar Police Department that the restraint chair may be used by sworn staff to provide safe containment of a prisoner exhibiting violent or uncontrollable behavior and to prevent self-injury, injury to others or property damage when other control techniques are not effective.

II. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of the prisoner restraint chair.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Restraint Chair: A gray-colored chair with large wheels that has restraint capabilities. Requires that standard handcuffs and leg irons are removed from the prisoner while they are restrained in the chair. Use of the restraint chair does not constitute a 4-point restraint. This chair is referred to as the S.R.C. Safety Restraint Chair by the manufacturer.
- B. Standard Handcuffs: Handcuffs normally used behind the back, whether chain or hinged.
- C. Leather Transport Belt: Leather non-locking transport belt. Heavy duty leather belt with roller buckle is 1 1/2" wide and easy to apply. Steel D-ring fits most chain and hinged handcuffs.
- D. Leg Irons: Restraint device designed to attach to the ankles of prisoners with a 15 inch chain in order to effectively limit the normal range of motion.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Authorization for Use

1. Any officer may utilize the restraint chair upon following the procedures outlined in this policy.
2. The Safety Restraint Chair will never be authorized as a form of punishment. The use of the S.R.C. will be in accordance with Policy 6.1 Response to Resistance.
3. Only Officers trained in the use of the restraint chair will place a prisoner in it. A minimum of two (2) officers will be present to assist in the placement of a prisoner in the restraint chair. Other officers may be called in to assist if necessary.

B. Conditions for Use

1. Officers may use the restraint chair for emergencies in any or all of the following situations:
 - a. When a prisoner has demonstrated violent or uncontrollable behavior.
 - b. To prevent prisoner self- injury, injury to others or property damage when other techniques have been ineffective in assisting the prisoner to regain control.
 - c. Generally, juveniles will not be placed in the restraint chair.

C. Application Guidelines

1. After it has been determined that the restraint chair is necessary and its use has been authorized, application will conform to the following guidelines. If an officer feels that a prisoner is suicidal, they must follow all departmental procedures for an Emergency Petition.
 - a. Officers will visually inspect the chair to ensure that all equipment and accessories are in proper working order.
 - b. Ensure a prisoner is kept in the restraint chair no longer than two (2) hours unless exigent circumstances exist, i.e., prisoners continued violent behavior.
 - c. Ensure a prisoner placed in the restraint chair is placed in a location which allows for constant supervision. Prisoners are never to be left alone while in the restraint chair.
 - d. Officers will only place the prisoner in the restraint chair long enough for the prisoner to regain control of their behavior.

- e. Immediately after placement of a prisoner in the restraint chair the officer will begin documentation utilizing the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log Form (DPD Form 7.9).
- f. The arresting officer will review the condition of the prisoner and the use of the restraint chair once (1) every hour. This will include:
 - i. Talking with the prisoner
 - ii. Checking the restraints for comfort and security
 - iii. Developing an appropriate plan for release
 - iv. Checking the Restraint Chair Monitoring Log Form for appropriate entries.
 - v. Notify EMS if signs of medical distress are noted.

V. PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

A. Before Placing Prisoner in Restraint Chair

1. Always use the chair in an upright position. Never lay it on its back while occupied.
2. Make every reasonable attempt to decontaminate any prisoner who has been subjected to pepper spray prior to placement in the chair.
3. Intoxication, recent use of drugs or alcohol, the presence of a head injury, obesity, physical disability, and recent exertion are all circumstances that can increase difficulty breathing when restrained. All prisoners will be monitored while in custody for indications of medical problems and medical treatment obtained if required.
4. Ensure that the prisoner was already restrained with leg irons and handcuffs that failed to sufficiently control the prisoner.

B. Placing a Prisoner in Restraint Chair

1. Position the prisoner in front of the chair with their back toward the seat, with an officer on each side maintaining positive control of the prisoner. Officers will assist the prisoner while being placed into the chair.
2. **CAUTION** – Officers will **NOT**, at any time, wrap any of the belts or straps around the head or neck.

3. Officers shall be aware at all times of their position in relation to the inmate's head, to reduce the chance of being bitten or spat upon. A spit hood will be applied if the prisoner engages in this type of behavior. The spit hood will be removed as soon as the behavior ceases.
4. Officers will constantly observe the prisoner while they are in the chair.

C. Removal from the Restraint Chair

1. Officers will remove the prisoner from the restraint chair when they have determined that there is no longer a threat to self or others, or the prisoner must be transported to another facility.
2. A minimum of two (2) officers will be present when a prisoner is removed from the restraint chair.
3. If a prisoner has continued to exhibit violent and uncontrolled behavior when it becomes necessary to transport to another facility, the officers will follow these procedures:
 - a. While the prisoner is still restrained in the restraint chair:
 - i. Place the leather transport belt around his/her waist and secure.
 - ii. Position standard handcuffs in the ring of the transport belt.
 - iii. Remove one arm at a time from the restraint chair restraints (chest and arm) and place in the handcuffs. Double lock the handcuffs.
 - iv. Place leg irons around the prisoners ankles (double lock the leg irons) and remove the leg restraints.
 - v. Two officers will assist the prisoner in standing for complete removal from the chair.
 - vi. Spit hood may be left in place in order to ensure officer safety and prevent spitting or biting.
4. Officers will clean and disinfect the restraint chair after each use.

VI. TRAINING

- A. Specific steps used in placing the prisoner in and removing them from the S.R.C. Safety Restraint Chair will be in accordance with the standardized training that all officers must receive annually. This training will meet guidelines established by the manufacturer and follow policy and procedure established in Policies 7.10 Prisoner Restraints and 7.11 Prisoner Transportation.
- B. The Administrative Commander will maintain a list of all Officers trained in the use of the restraint chair.