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## Transportation of Offenders

### 405.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Establishes the Department's policies and procedures for transporting offenders under the care, custody, and control of the Chief Probation Officer.

### 405.2 APPLICABILITY

Applies to all sworn Department Employees.

### 405.3 POLICY

All transportations shall be conducted in the safest manner possible, for both the offender and the officer(s) providing the transport.

### 405.4 TRANSPORTATION OF OFFENDERS

Unarmed officers can transport alone with Supervisor approval except for re-arrest purposes. In arrest situations, there must be two officers present. The following steps should be taken to ensure the safety of all personnel:

- The back seat of the vehicle should be searched before the offender is put into the vehicle.
- If the vehicle is caged and there is only one transporting officer, the offender is to be seated in the rear seat on the right side (behind the front passenger).
- If the vehicle is caged and there are two transporting officers, the offender is to be seated behind the driver allowing the second officer to sit in the front passenger seat and observe the offender.
- If the vehicle is uncaged and there is only one transporting officer, the individual is to be seated in the rear on the right side (behind the front passenger seat). These transportations are not recommended for custodial transports and should be cleared with a Supervisor.
- If the vehicle is uncaged and there are two transporting officers, the offender is to be seated in the rear on the right side (behind the front passenger seat) and the second officer is to sit behind the driver.
- If transporting more than one offender, then both offenders sit in the back and both officers sit in front.
- If a van or bus is used, the passenger officer will position themselves between the officer driving and the offender(s) or any other position where they can maintain visual observation of the offender(s) or any other position where they can maintain visual observation of the offender(s) during the transport and protect the driver.
- If the offender is a female, have at least one female officer transport if possible.
- In non-arrest transports, passengers may be seated in the front seat with approval from the unit SPO.

# San Diego County Probation Department

## Policy Manual

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#### **405.5 RESTRAINING AND SEARCHING THE OFFENDER**

Prior to transporting any offender(s), the transporting officer(s) may, if they deem it prudent, search the offender(s) prior to placing them in the vehicle.

- (a) Officers should use current protocols and procedures approved by the Probation Department when completing the search.
- (b) If the offender(s) has been arrested or is being transported to a custodial facility/setting, the offender must be in handcuffs. Handcuffs are also permitted if the officer(s) deem it necessary for their safety.
- (c) Restraints should be applied in a department-approved manner prior to the search of the offender(s).

##### **405.5.1 PRIOR TO DEPARTURE**

Officers shall be responsible for securing all offenders in the transportation vehicle, prior to departing. This requires the transporting officer to:

- (a) Assign individual seats for each offender. Do not double offenders in a seat, unless a lack of space prevents separate seat assignments;
- (b) Ensure the seat belts are fastened securely;
- (c) Lock all vehicle doors.

#### **405.6 TRANSPORTATION OF OFFENDER(S) UTILIZING COMMERCIAL AIRLINES**

All officers transporting offenders (prisoners) on commercial airlines must adhere to all Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

FAA regulation, CFR Title 49, Part 1544.219, requires Law Enforcement Officers to have completed the "Law Enforcement Officers Flying Armed" training prior to transporting offenders (prisoners) while armed, aboard an "aircraft for which screening is required."

FAA regulations, CFR Title 49, Part 1544.221, requires all offenders (prisoners) flying on commercial aircrafts be restrained from the full use of their hands (no leg restraints allowed), and must be escorted by armed law enforcement officers.

#### **405.7 RADIO PROTOCOL WHEN TRANSPORTING OFFENDERS**

The officer(s) will use proper radio protocol when transporting offenders, to include: notifying the dispatcher that an offender(s) is being transported, the gender of the offender, and providing the starting and ending points and the starting and ending mileage.