

Section 5: Security

Subject: Use of Restraints

Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03(B)(9) / 5120:1-8-09(R)

Revised: 08/2002, 01/2006, 10/2008, 12/2011, 09/2015

Authorized: _____ **Effective date:** _____
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

POLICY

Inmates in physical restraints shall be personally checked by staff every ten minutes. All checks shall be logged. Health trained staff shall check the restrained inmate every two hours for responsiveness and restraint pressure. They shall review for least restrictive alternatives. The report of use of physical restraints shall be reviewed and signed off by a non-involved supervisor or higher ranking personnel. The use of physical restraints shall be reviewed for policy compliance by the jail administrator or designee. It is the Policy of the Erie County Jail to use restraining devices for the sole purpose of protection of the inmate from self-injury, the prevention of an inmate from injuring others or the prevention of escape. Restraining devices will never be used for punishment or for medical and/or psychiatric reasons.

DEFINITIONS

Administrators and Supervisors: Persons who have managerial responsibility for a full service jail, or who supervises employee's security assignments or activities in the jail.

Acute Behavioral Disturbance: The extreme state of agitation, excitability, perhaps paranoia, coupled with great strength, aggression and non-pain compliance.

Acute Exhaustive Mania: A state of agitation, fear or anxiety so intense that it may lead to cardiac arrhythmia, cardiac arrest, or death. This condition is characterized by: Aggressive behavior/Panic/incoherent speech/sweating/dilated pupils/high body temperature/paranoia/shivering/a sudden calmness.

Backboard Restraint: The Maximum Restraint Backboard system manufactured by RIPP Restraints, Inc. This restraint is used in a prone position to restrain and control a combative or self-destructive inmate.

Hog tie or Hobble tie: A (non-approved) method of restraint that lays the prisoner on their front and secures the hands and feet together behind the back.

Restraint Chair: The Emergency Restraint Chair, manufactured by ERC, Inc. is a padded chair that safely restrains a combative or violent prisoner.

Restraining Device: Any mechanical contrivance, appliance or object designed or fashioned to physically control or incapacitate a person.

Section 5: Security

Subject: Use of Restraints (Continued)

Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03(B)(9) / 5120:1-8-09(R)

Revised: 08/2002, 01/2006, 10/2008, 12/2011, 09/2015

PROCEDURE

A. When an inmate's behavior indicates a potential of serious self-injury or serious injury to others, officers shall take preventative action. The Shift Supervisor will decide which restraint method is appropriate. This decision will be based on the seriousness of the inmate's actions and the ability to carry out their intentions. Only the below listed type of restraints are authorized for use in the Erie County Jail:

1. **Handcuffs** – should be applied properly.
 - a. Officers should be certain the handcuffs do not cut off blood circulation to the hands
 - b. To ensure the handcuffs do not become overly tightened, they should always be double locked.
2. **Shackles** – should be applied properly.
 - a. Officers should be certain the handcuffs do not cut off blood circulation to the feet
 - b. To ensure the shackles do not become overly tightened, they should always be double locked.
3. **Restraint Belt** – should be snugly fitted around the inmate's waist
 - a. Officers should be certain the inmate cannot lower the belt and step out of the restraints.
4. **The RIPP Maximum Restraint Backboard** – should be used in accordance to manufacturer's directions.
5. **The Emergency Restraint Chair** – should be used in accordance to manufacturer's directions.
6. **Flex-Cuffs** – are available for use as a temporary restraining device to be used until other means of authorized restraining devices are available.

B. Hogtie

- a. Because of the risk of death from Positional Asphyxia, the practice of a hogtie restraint should not be used.

C. Surveillance

- a. Any inmate placed in restraints shall be observed every 10 minutes at an irregular interval. Checks should be documented on a hand written observation log.

D. Physician

- a. No inmate shall remain in restraints for more than 8 hours without an examination by the jail physician or his designee.

Section 5: Security

Subject: Use of Restraints (Continued)

Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03(B)(9) / 5120:1-8-09(R)

Revised: 08/2002, 01/2006, 10/2008, 12/2011, 09/2015

- b. If an inmate is to remain in restraints longer than 2 hours, the Shift Supervisor must document the reasons in a Jail Incident Report in the Jail Record Management System.
- c. In the event the inmate who has been restrained continues their violent or self-destructive behavior, the Shift Supervisor may request an emergency psychological evaluation.
- d. The jail administrator will be immediately notified upon the occurrence of any action response incident that results in injuries that warrant medical attention.

E. Reporting

- a. All officers involved in placing an inmate into restraints must write an incident report in the jail's JMS as soon as possible after the incident
- b. These reports should then be reviewed and signed off by a non-involved supervisor or higher ranking personnel.

F. Jail Administrator Review

- a. All use of physical restraints shall be reviewed for policy compliance by the Jail Administrator or designee.
 - i. This will be accomplished by reading and reviewing all reports and watch sheets of the incident.
 - ii. The date and time of review will be placed in the Administrator Review field on the incident report screen in the JMS.