
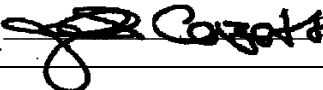
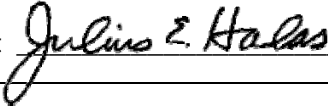


**Department of Financial Services  
Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

	Title:		Policy #
	<b>Detainee Transportation</b>		2.6.8
	Amends:	Rescinds:	Effective Date:
N/A	N/A	09/22/2009	
Review Date:	Review Date:	Review Date:	

Approved:  Chief John Corbett  Director Julius Halas

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the safe and secure transport of detainees when another law enforcement agency is not available to respond.

**II. Policy**

It is the policy of the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations that all detainees in the custody of sworn members shall be properly restrained and transported in a manner that ensures the safety, security and welfare of the member, the general public and the detainee.

**III. Authority**

Section 30.24 (2)(a), Florida Statutes  
 Section 626.989, Florida Statutes  
 Section 985.211, Florida Statutes  
 Section 985.212, Florida Statutes  
 Section 985.215 Florida Statutes

**IV. Procedures for Transporting Detainees**

- A. The Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations' vehicles are not equipped nor utilized for transporting detainees. Detainees will be transported in Bureau vehicles only in exigent circumstances.
- B. When a physical arrest is imminent, the sworn member shall request assistance from a local law enforcement agency to transport detainees to a detention facility.
- C. In the event that a local law enforcement agency is unavailable to transport a detainee, the following guidelines shall be followed:
  - 1. No more than one detainee per sworn member shall be transported.
  - 2. The vehicle that will be utilized for transport shall be prepared by thoroughly searching and removing all objects from the area that will be

- accessible to the detainee prior to placing the detainee into the vehicle. (CFA 29.08)
3. Sworn members shall handcuff the detainee behind his or her back and search the detainee thoroughly prior placing the detainee into the transport vehicle. (CFA 29.02)
  4. All handcuffed detainees should be secured with a safety belt during transportation.
  5. Security of a detainee is the responsibility of the transporting members until the detainee is accepted into the custody of a detention facility.
  6. Prior to initiating transport, a sworn member will advise the appropriate Regional Communications Center by radio of the vehicle's starting mileage. Upon arrival at the detention facility, the sworn member shall notify the Regional Communications Center by radio of the ending mileage and advise that the transport is complete.
  7. Sworn members transporting detainees will follow all regulations of the receiving facility, including the following procedures:
    - a. Securing firearms for safekeeping; (CFA 29.06 M "A")
    - b. Removing restraining devices; (CFA 29.08 M "B")
    - c. Completing and providing documentation to the receiving officer; (CFA 29.08 M "C")
    - d. Obtaining written documentation detailing the detainee transfer; and (CFA 29.08 M "D")
    - e. Advising receiving agency personnel of any potential or security hazards. (CFA 29.08 M "E")
  8. Before exiting the sally port, the sworn members shall search the area of the vehicle where the detainee was seated to ensure contraband was not left behind by the detainee. (CFA 28.08)
- D. Sworn members will exercise due care if required to transport a disabled detainee. The sworn members shall ensure that the detainee's wheelchair, crutches, prosthesis or other devices, and any medications in his or her possession, are transported to the detention facility with the detainee. (CFA 29.01 M "B")
- E. Male and female detainees shall be transported in the same vehicle only if arrested as participants in the same offense, married or co-habiting. (CFA 28.01 M "A")
- F. Except in exigent circumstances, a juvenile may not be placed into, or transported in any Bureau vehicle occupied by an adult who is under arrest, unless the adult is alleged, or believed to be involved in the same offense as the juvenile. (CFA 29.01 M "C")

- G. Whenever possible, a female sworn member should accompany a female detainee and a male sworn member should accompany a male detainee during transportation.
- H. If a sworn member believes a violent detainee cannot be transported safely, the sworn member should remain at the scene until additional help arrives. ( CFA 29.01 M “D”)
- I. The primary duty of a sworn member transporting a detainee is the safe delivery of the detainee in his or her custody. Sworn members transporting detainees shall not stop to take enforcement action, pursue a violator or become involved in any other duty-related activity, except in exigent circumstances. (CFA 29.03) These may include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. **ONLY** when the risk of physical harm to other persons is obvious, and the risk to the detainee is minimal, should a sworn member become engaged in any other duty-related activity;
  - 2. Sworn members who encounter disabled vehicles, traffic crashes or other minor incidents will notify the Regional Communications Center via the radio. When absolutely necessary, sworn members may assist in clearing any roadway obstructions, but should always maintain a continuous view of the detainee;
  - 3. If a sworn member must leave the vehicle, appropriate ventilation will be provided for the detainee; the key will be removed from the ignition and the vehicle will be secured;
  - 4. Sworn members shall be alert to incidents that may divert his or her attention, and place the detainee in jeopardy or enhance opportunity for escape; and
  - 5. Sworn members shall resume the detainee’s transport as soon as possible.
- J. In the event a detainee becomes sick or injured during a physical arrest or while being transported, it will be the arresting member’s responsibility to take the detainee to the nearest medical facility for treatment. The sworn member will maintain direct contact and security of the detainee. (29.05 M) The sworn member’s on-call supervisor shall be contacted. The supervisor will be responsible for ensuring arrangements are made for the security of the detainee at the medical facility, until custody of the detainee is transferred to the detention facility.

V. **Procedures for the Use of Restraining Devices**

- A. The detainee shall remain restrained with handcuffs that are securely fastened, double-locked and behind his or her back, while in vehicle transport, or when in the custody of a single sworn member. (CFA 29.07 M)

- B. If utilized, plastic cuffs should be considered as temporary restraints, useful in mass arrests, while transporting prisoners not deemed to be escape risks over long distances or supplementary to steel handcuffs. (CFA 29.07 M)
- C. At no time shall a sworn member use any restraining technique which results in a detainee being restrained with both the hands and feet together behind the back. A detainee shall not be placed in a position, which results in their lying on their stomachs while restrained. (CFA 29.07 M)
- D. The detainee shall remain handcuffed until released to an authorized member of the detention center. (CFA 29.07 M)
- E. The detainee shall not be restrained to fixed objects, or any part of a vehicle. (CFA 29.07 M)
- F. A detainee who is a known escape or suicide risk shall not be left unsupervised or unrestrained. (CFA 29.07 M)

**VI. Procedures for Searching Detainees**

- A. All detainees shall be thoroughly searched for weapons and contraband prior to transport, and kept in visual contact by the sworn member until transferred to another sworn member or agency. (CFA 29.02 M)
- B. A search of the detainee to be transported shall be conducted regardless of the age, sex or severity of the charges to be filed. When possible, the search shall be completed by a sworn member that is the same sex as the detainee. When a sworn member of the same sex is not available, the transporting member shall complete the search utilizing a bladed hand technique.
- C. Sworn members are not authorized to conduct strip or body cavity searches for any reason. If a search of this nature is required, the sworn member shall notify detention facility staff upon arrival at the facility. (CFA 2.03 M)
- D. Purses, coats, knapsacks, jackets, or other outer garments in the possession of the detainee shall be removed from the detainee and searched.

**VII. Procedures Related to Escape of a Detainee**

- A. The transporting sworn members shall immediately notify the Regional Communications Center by radio to obtain assistance in the recapture of a detainee.
- B. Sworn members will notify the appropriate supervisor of the circumstances surrounding the escape.
- C. The sworn member shall file a criminal arrest report regarding the escape and any follow-up investigation as deemed necessary by the immediate supervisor.