

# CITY OF ANDERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Anderson, South Carolina

<b>DIRECTIVE TYPE</b> General Order	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> September 10, 2006	<b>NUMBER</b> 1903
<b>SUBJECT</b> Prisoner Transportation: Seating of Officers & Occupant Restraint		
<b>REVISED</b>		
<b>REFERENCE</b> SCLEA 19.1.3, 19.1.4 and G/Os 1904, 1909, & 1910	<b>AMENDS/SUPERSEDES</b> All Others	
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b> All Personnel	<b>RE-EVALUATION DATE</b> Annual	<b>NO. PAGES</b> 3

**A. Policy**

The City of Anderson Police Department will take every reasonable measure to ensure the safety and security of prisoners in its custody, protect its officers, and protect the general public. For safety reasons, officer(s) who transport prisoners will make every reasonable attempt to keep the prisoner(s) under observation at all times in order to reduce - as much as possible - the prisoner's opportunities for escape or attack on officers, or other people.

Proper seating of officers and prisoners in a transport vehicle is paramount to ensuring safety to all concerned parties. Therefore the procedures that follow in this general order will specify the seating arrangements for officers and prisoners. Officers will keep prisoners under observation at all times (except as when privacy is allowed in general order 1904 and the exceptions listed in general order 1908) (19.1.4). Prisoners will be secured to the maximum degree with appropriate restraining devices and a fastened seat belt.

**B. Procedures**

1. Vehicles used for transportation shall be equipped with a screen or other similar barrier or partition between the front seats and the back seat area.
  - a. The transporting of prisoners in unscreened vehicles should only be done under extreme or exigent circumstances.

2. Positions of officers and prisoners during transport (19.1.3)
  - a. A **single officer** transporting a **single prisoner in a screened vehicle** will transport the prisoner in the rear seat, passenger side, handcuffed with safety belt fastened.
  - b. A **single officer** transporting a **single prisoner in an unscreened vehicle** will transport the prisoner in the front passenger seat, handcuffed, and with the safety belt fastened.
    - (1) Exception: When a **single officer** transports a **single prisoner of a different sex in an unscreened vehicle**, with the supervisor's approval, it may be preferable to transport the prisoner in the rear seat.
    - (2) Note: Please refer to general order 1910 regarding transporting prisoners of a different sex.
  - c. When **more than one prisoner** is transported, the prisoners shall be transported in a screened vehicle, handcuffed, and in the rear seat, regardless of how many officers are in the vehicle.
  - d. **Two officers transporting a single prisoner, or two or three prisoners in a screened vehicle** may transport with both officers in the front seat, and the prisoner(s) secured in the rear seat, handcuffed, with their safety belts fastened.
  - e. **Two officers transporting a single prisoner in an unscreened vehicle** (on those exceptional cases where an unscreened vehicle is used) shall place the prisoner in the rear passenger seat, handcuffed, and with safety belt fastened. The second officer will ride in the rear seat with their gun side on the opposite side from the prisoner.
3. Safety belts and restraints to be used during prisoner transport
  - a. Prisoner(s) transported by City of Anderson police officers shall be secured in handcuffs with their hands behind their back and the handcuffs double locked.
  - b. Every prisoner transported in a police vehicle shall be secured with the safety belt.
    - (1) This provides for safety for the prisoner in the event of an auto accident as well as additional security for the officer.
    - (2) Although no one is exempted from the safety belt restraints, a supervisor may grant permission to exempt handcuffing individuals in special transport situations. In each of these situations the transporting officer must request and receive permission from the supervisor in advance. These exemptions will be limited to the following:

- (a) Persons who are handicapped or otherwise physically incapacitated and their risk of violence or escape appears to be minimal.
- (b) Elderly or ill persons arrested for minor offenses and the risk of violence or escape appears to be minimal.
- (c) Juveniles arrested for minor offenses who pose no apparent threat and the risk of violence or escape appears to be minimal.
- (d) NOTE: The severity of the charges should be taken into account.
  - i. Consider the following matters which represent information that must be considered prior to making any exception to the use of restraints:
  - ii. Have there been any alleged crimes of violence?
  - iii. Does the prisoner have a prior record of violent act(s) or
  - iv. Escape attempt(s)?
  - v. Has the prisoner made threats made?
  - vi. Has the prisoner indicated any violent or uncooperative acts, etc?

c. Additional Transporting/Restraint Considerations

- (1) When deemed appropriate by an officer, prisoners may be restrained with a waist belt (belly chain) and/or leg shackles.
- (2) No person shall be handcuffed to any stationary object or to any part of the transporting vehicle or be left unattended.
- (3) All property of the prisoner and identifying Arrest/Booking information shall be transported with same.
- (4) Officers will also be required to comply with the following:
  - (a) The use of a hobble, "hog tying" or other such restraints are prohibited.

By order of:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Martin D. Brown, Chief of Police

9-5-2006  
 Date