



Minneapolis Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Number:
5-300

Volume Five – Code of Conduct and Use of Force

Use of Force

5-305 Control Option- Handcuffing

(xx/xx/23)

Revisions to prior policies: (09/08/20) (12/22/20)

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to expand on the requirements of other force policies, specifically related to handcuffing.

II. Definitions

Terms defined in P&P 5-304:

- Carry
- Deliver
- Discharge
- Display
- Engaged with a Subject
- Point
- Use

III. Policy

A. Policy and Guiding Principles

In addition to the specifications in this policy, employees shall follow the requirements of all other applicable policies, including but not limited to, the Guiding Principles and other standards in P&P 5-301.

B. Consistent With Policy and Training

Officers shall only use handcuffs in a non-discriminatory manner, and only when such force is objectively reasonable and consistent with current MPD training and MPD policies governing the use of force (including all sections in P&P 5-300).

C. Authorized use

1. Arrests

- a. To minimize the risk of injury to officers and others during arrest situations, officers shall handcuff all people arrested as soon as possible (in accordance with P&P 9-100).
- b. Handcuffs are authorized when transporting in-custody subjects (in accordance with P&P 9-100).

2. Investigative detentions (“Terry Stops”)

- a. Handcuff use during investigative detentions is authorized when one or more of the following factors are present:
 - i. Articulate facts that the subject is physically uncooperative.
 - ii. Articulate facts that a subject’s actions at the scene may present physical danger to themselves or others if not restrained.
 - iii. Reasonable possibility of flight based on the circumstances.
 - iv. Information that the subject is currently armed.
 - v. The stop closely follows a violent crime and the subject matches specific parts of a description.
 - vi. The number of subjects involved in the stop causes an articulable safety concern.
 - vii. Articulate facts that a crime of violence is about to occur.
- b. Care and discretion should be used with people at extremes of age in handcuffing such people during an investigative detention.
- c. The authority to handcuff during investigatory stops continues for only as long as the circumstances above exist.

3. Suicidal people

Handcuffs are authorized when engaging a person who is reasonably believed to be suicidal.

4. Search warrant service

- a. Handcuffs are authorized when executing a search warrant at a private residence as is reasonably necessary to execute the warrant in safety.

- b. Handcuffs are authorized when executing a search warrant at a commercial business open to the public if it reasonably appears that handcuffing is necessary to protect an officer or others from physical harm. Circumstances that justify initial handcuffing may change and eliminate continued justification.

5. Detoxification subjects

Handcuffs are authorized when transporting detoxification subjects.

D. Unauthorized use

1. If medical circumstances make it unreasonable to handcuff an arrestee, officers shall refrain from handcuffing.
2. When responding to a scene where a subject has already been placed in handcuffs prior to arrival, officers shall not place MPD handcuffs on the subject until they have reasonable suspicion or probable cause based on their independent investigation or findings.

E. Checking handcuffs

1. Officers shall check handcuffs for tightness and double lock as soon as it is safe to do so prior to transport.
2. When a handcuffed subject first complains that handcuffs are too tight or are hurting the subject, the officer having custody of the handcuffed subject shall, as soon as reasonably possible, check the handcuffs to make sure that they are not too tight. If they are too tight (per training), they shall be loosened and relocked.