

UW Whitewater Police



Detainee Transport

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I. Purpose

The purpose of this general order is to provide guidelines for UW-Whitewater Police Department (UWWPD) personnel to follow when transporting detainees.

II. Definitions

Detainee(s): A person in the custody of UWWPD personnel and whose freedom of movement is at the will of agency personnel.

Passenger Compartment: The rear compartment of the patrol vehicle used for securing detainees during transportation.

Transport Vehicle: Vehicle owned by UWWPD used for the transport of detainees, where the rear compartments are modified to minimize opportunities for exit without the aid of transporting personnel.

III. Policy

It is the policy of the UW-Whitewater Police Department (UWWPD) that detainee transport by UWWPD will be performed in a manner that will provide for the safety and security of the detainee, the transporting officer(s), and the general public.

IV. Procedure

A. Detainee Search Prior to Transport (CALEA 70.1.1)

1. A detainee search prior to transport is required.
2. The search is the responsibility of the sworn officer who is transporting the detainee.
3. All detainees will be searched for devices that may be used to start a fire, items that may be used to harm themselves or others, and contraband.
4. UWWPD shall not conduct body cavity or strip searches unless a strong need for investigation requires it or there is a safety issue. If a strip or body cavity search is absolutely necessary, the guidelines in GO 1.2.8 Strip and Body Cavity Searches will be followed.

B. Transport Vehicle Search Procedures (CALEA 70.1.2)

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1. Procedures for Checking Transport Vehicles at the Beginning of Shift
 - a. Patrol officers shall inspect their vehicles at the beginning of each shift. This helps ensure the vehicle has not been tampered with since last used, is free of weapons and contraband, is mechanically safe, is free of damage or defect, and is properly equipped for use.
2. Procedures for Searching Transport Vehicles Prior to Transport
 - a. Whenever a detainee is transported in a police vehicle, a thorough search of the passenger compartment shall be completed prior to transport.
 - b. The vehicle must be searched prior to each transport, even if it was checked by the transporting officer at the beginning of their shift.
 - c. Any weapons and/or contraband located during the search of the passenger compartment shall immediately be reported and the contraband inventoried according to UWWPD procedures.
3. Procedures for Checking Transport Vehicle After Transport
 - a. Once a detainee has been removed from the vehicle, a thorough search should be conducted as soon as practical, but in all cases, before the vehicle is reused.
 - b. This will ensure the detainee has left nothing in the vehicle, and if items are found, will help them to be linked in a timely manner to the detainee.

C. Procedures at the Transport Destination (70.1.6, 70.1.8)

1. Once an officer reaches the transport destination, their firearms, and other weapons shall be secured in the provided weapons lockers at the facility.
2. Once the above is complete, the officer will escort the person into the facility. Restraints will only be taken off by staff at the facility or when staff requests the restraints removed.
3. The transporting officer shall deliver all necessary documentation to the receiving facility.
4. The transporting officer will document the transfer of custody including the date and time of the transfer in their report and the person taking custody of the detainee.
5. The transporting officer shall advise the receiving agency of any potential medical or security risks.
6. If the detainee has been uncooperative, resistive or an unusual security risk a member of UWW PD should contact the receiving facility and advise them of this risk.

D. Procedures for Detainee Escape During Transport (CALEA 70.1.7)

1. The transporting officer shall notify dispatch immediately, to facilitate broadcasting alerts and request additional units to help search the area of escape.
2. The agency whose jurisdiction the escape occurs in should be immediately notified.
3. An attempt should be made to apprehend the detainee, if possible.
4. The on-call or on-duty supervisor will be notified as soon as possible.

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5. Written reports indicating the circumstances surrounding the escape shall be submitted prior to the end of the officer's shift.
6. Other actions will be taken as required and may be designated by the on-call or on-duty supervisor, or Chief of Police.

E. Detainee Restraint Methods (CALEA 70.2.1)

1. In most circumstances, a person being transported is either going to the UW-Whitewater Police Department for the Booking Process or a county jail facility. Under normal circumstances, a person should be handcuffed behind their back, with handcuffs safety locked, and seated upright in the rear seat area of the squad car.
2. Detainees should not be transported in a manner that might lead to positional asphyxia such as transported on their stomachs or on their back in the squad car.
3. If a person is resistive or prone to self-harm, the officers may use department equipment that allows the detainee to be transported upright but prevents them from striking their head or restrains their legs to prevent kicking at windows. These devices are kept in each squad car used for the transports.
4. Each squad car is equipped with "spit hoods" that can prevent a detainee from transmitting mouth projectiles but does not restrict a detainee's breathing. These are also kept in each squad car used for the transports.
5. If a person is being transported a longer distance, such as for a mental health hold, each transport vehicle is equipped with a waist chain that can be used with handcuffs to allow the person to be transported seated upright but in a more comfortable position. These devices can also be used for people with disabilities, medical conditions or when the standard handcuff method is not practicable.
6. Under most circumstances, only one detainee can be transported at a time. However, if two people who know each other are being transported back to the police department for a minor offense to be booked and released; or when only one transport squad is available, it is permissible to transport more than one person.
7. If the detainee has injuries or is being taken to a medical facility for evaluation, an officer has the option of having EMS respond to transport the person restrained. In this circumstance, an officer should ride with the EMS crew to be able to remove restraints and for the safety of the crew.
8. Procedures for Transporting Prisoners with a Disability
 - i. It should not be assumed that a person with a disability will not require restraining devices. The use of these devices shall be left to the discretion of the officer.
 - ii. Persons with a disability should be placed and secured in the back of the transport vehicle in a position that is as comfortable and convenient as possible. Aids such as wheelchairs, crutches, canes, or other devices should be placed either in the trunk or in the front seat with the transporting officer.

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F. Rear Compartment of Transport Vehicles (70.4.2)

1. The rear compartment area of most UW-Whitewater Police Department vehicles are modified to minimize opportunities and risk for a person exiting the rear seating compartment without assistance. There is also factory installed protection barriers to protect officers in each patrol and canine vehicles used for prisoner transport.

Currently only the supervisor's marked squad car, vehicles used for undercover operations and the Chief's vehicle do not have a modified rear compartment for prisoner transport and shall not be used to transport prisoners.