



# USE OF FORCE DIRECTIVE

## HANDCUFFING

### PURPOSE

The principle reason for handcuffing is to maintain control of an individual and to minimize the possibility of a situation escalating to a point that would necessitate using a higher level of force or restraint. The decision to use restraining procedures and devices depends on common sense and good judgment. While felony arrestees shall normally be handcuffed, the restraining of detainees and misdemeanants is discretionary. The purpose of this Directive is to examine discretion and safety considerations in handcuffing.

### PROTOCOL

The decision to handcuff a person is not based on rigid criteria. It is determined by the nature of each situation as perceived by the officer. To ensure the effective and appropriate use of handcuffs, it is necessary to place the responsibility for handcuffing with the involved officers. Officers should evaluate all available facts and circumstances concerning each person prior to determining whether to use handcuffs. The varied nature of each situation makes it unrealistic to provide specific and detailed guidelines for handcuffing.

When determining whether to handcuff a person, the following factors should be considered: the possibility of escape or the incident escalating, the potential threat to the officers and other persons, the positional advantage or disadvantage of the officer during searching procedures, the size, relative strength, and skill level of the officer versus the person, and the knowledge of the individual's previous encounters with law enforcement. Consistent with the Department's Tactical De-escalation and Use of Force policies, officers should utilize appropriate care when dealing with subjects either known or perceived to be from vulnerable populations, vulnerable populations, as defined here include, but are not limited to children, elderly persons, people who are pregnant, and people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.

### People with Mental Illness

When taking a person with a mental illness into custody, Department personnel shall evaluate the totality of the circumstances, Department personnel should not