



# SOUTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

<b>GENERAL ORDER NUMBER:</b> 30.3	<b>DATE OF ISSUE:</b> July 31, 2011	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> September 01, 2011	<b>NUMBER OF PAGES:</b> 05
<b>CFA STANDARD:</b> 29 <b>SUBJECT:</b> Prisoner Transportation – SPECIAL TRANSPORT SITUATIONS	<b>NEW (X) RESCINDS (X)</b>  <b>AMENDS ( ) OTHER ( )</b>	<b>By Order Of:</b>   <b>Orlando Martinez de Castro</b> CHIEF OF POLICE	

**CFA STANDARD:** 29.01M, 29.05M, 29.06M, 29.07M

**SECTIONS:**

- 30.3.1            Transporting Sick, Injured, and Disabled Prisoners**
- 30.3.2            Hospital Security and Control**
- 30.3.3            Special Situations**

**RESCINDS:** All existing orders in conflict.

**PURPOSE:** To establish departmental policy and provide guidelines for transport in special situations, including sick, injured and disabled prisoners.

**SCOPE:** All departmental personnel.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the South Miami Police Department to provide for special care and attention, when necessary, for physically and/or mentally handicapped prisoners during transport and when being restrained by departmental personnel.

**PROCEDURE:**

**30.3.1            Transporting Sick, Injured and Disabled Prisoners**

- A. Miami-Dade Fire/Rescue will be called if a prisoner complains of illness or injury upon being arrested. Upon the arrest of an individual who is in need of medical treatment, the officer will:
  - 1. Request Miami-Dade Fire/Rescue at the scene if injuries are serious enough to warrant immediate attention (example: severe bleeding, unconsciousness, or other severe trauma). Miami-Dade Fire/Rescue will either transport the prisoner to the Jackson Memorial Hospital Emergency Care Center or to the closest appropriate medical facility;

2. If treated and cleared at the scene by Fire/Rescue personnel, the officer will transport the prisoner expeditiously (after completing the arrest affidavit) to the appropriate Miami-Dade County Corrections booking facility. Transporting officers shall notify their supervisor and the Communications Center of the action taken. All injured prisoners **must** be medically cleared prior to transporting to a Miami-Dade County Jail Facility. The medical clearance documentation **must** accompany the prisoner.

B. Transporting disabled/handicapped prisoners:

1. Physically and mentally disabled prisoner's present conditions that dictate special care and attention for their transportation.
2. The safety of the prisoner(s) and the transporting officer requires due care when transporting handicapped prisoners.
3. The type of vehicle used in transporting non-ambulatory prisoners should be given careful consideration. The officer should consider if the prisoner(s) is able to sit up.
  - a. It may be necessary to carry the prisoner's wheelchair, crutches, prosthetic appliances, medication, etc;
  - b. It may become necessary to require the assistance of medical personnel and medical equipment (Miami-Dade Fire Rescue and/or a private ambulance) to complete the transport of a handicapped prisoner. The officer will obtain prior approval from a supervisor before requesting assistance from an outside source.
4. Depending on the extent of the handicap and the nature of the criminal violation, it may be more feasible to release the individual on a misdemeanor promise to appear, if applicable.

C. Restraining devices on handicapped/disabled prisoners:

1. When transporting handicapped prisoners, the degree of physical restraints will be applied within reason, at the discretion of the transporting officer and within departmental guidelines.
2. The most important factor in transporting a handicapped prisoner(s) is the safety of the officer and prisoner.
3. A prisoner in a wheelchair or one who uses walking aids may not require restraining, but the following circumstances should be considered:
  - a. The prisoner's charges;
  - b. The prisoner's behavior (i.e. combative, escape risk, suicidal tendencies, etc.);

- c. The extent and nature of the handicap or injury.
  4. The following restraints are available and will be considered for use by the transporting officer:
    - a. Handcuffs and "flex cuffs";
    - b. Leg restraints "flex cuffs";
    - c. Seat belts.
  5. The prisoner will be restrained. When transporting a handicapped prisoner un-cuffed, additional officer(s) may be assigned to the transport, at the discretion of the on-duty supervisor.
- D. Transporting sick or injured prisoners:
  1. If a prisoner becomes sick or injured, it is the arresting officer's responsibility to seek medical attention for that prisoner. If, in the officer's opinion, the prisoner's injury or illness is of such a serious nature that it requires immediate attention, the officer will call Rescue to his/her location prior to transporting. The supervisor will be notified of the prisoner's injury or illness and it will be documented on the back of the Complaint/Arrest Affidavit.
  2. The prisoner(s) will be transported to an emergency medical facility by the most appropriate means available, and offered medical treatment. If the prisoner(s) refuses medical treatment, documentation of the refusal will accompany the prisoner(s) to the detention facility.
  3. Prisoner(s) arrested as a result of a traffic crash should be evaluated carefully for the need for medical treatment, as not all traffic crash-related injuries are visible or obvious.
    - a. If paramedics are on the scene, they can make an initial evaluation; however, paramedics are not doctors and cannot make a formal diagnosis.
    - b. Any prisoner who has been injured in a traffic crash must be medically evaluated and obtain medical clearance prior to being transported to the Dade County Jail.
- E. Restraining devices on sick and injured prisoners:
  1. While being transported, a sick or injured prisoner will be handcuffed.
  2. Seat belts are required at all times, except for those individuals who are transported in the prisoner van.

3. Upon Miami-Dade Fire/Rescue's request, an officer will guard the prisoner in the rescue truck or ambulance while en route to the medical facility. Any such prisoner will be restrained on a gurney or back-board as securely as possible, consistent with his/her injuries. Such restraint should not interfere with treatment or medical staff. In such cases, an additional back-up officer will follow the rescue truck or ambulance in a marked patrol vehicle to the medical facility.

### 30.3.2 Hospital Security and Control

- A. It is the arresting officer's responsibility to ensure that any injuries are treated prior to transporting the prisoner(s) to another facility. If the arresting officer is not transporting the prisoner(s), the arresting officer will seek medical attention for the prisoner(s) prior to relinquishing responsibility to the transporting officer.

If the prisoner(s) complains of any illness or injury after the transporting officer takes custody of the prisoner(s), the transporting officer will notify a supervisor immediately and document it on the appropriate report(s).

- B. Injured prisoners needing hospitalization will be taken an emergency room according to protocols set by Miami Dade Fire Rescue (usually the closest one available). Upon arrival at the hospital, the officer will always maintain physical contact with the prisoner(s) or will remain in close physical proximity in order to reduce an opportunity for unauthorized personal contact, escape, or causing bodily harm to the officer or others.
- C. If the prisoner is admitted to a medical facility, the arresting/transporting officer(s) will stay with the prisoner at that medical facility until the prisoner has been medically cleared to be transported to a Dade County Jail facility. Arresting/transporting officers are responsible for their prisoners while at any receiving hospital, until such time as they are relieved of duty, or transports, or arranges for transportation of the prisoner to a Dade County Jail facility, and that facility has accepted responsibility for the prisoner. Officers will contact a supervisor when needing relief.
- D. The officer having custody of the prisoner(s) will remain with the prisoner(s) at all times during the examination and treatment. The officer will:
  1. Not remove restraints from the prisoner(s) unless the restraints interfere with the treatment, or the physician or hospital staff request removal of the restraints, **and if their removal does not jeopardize the safety and security of the officer, the prisoner, or members of the general public.**

2. When removing restraints, the officer will use the utmost caution and only remove those restraints necessary. In some cases, alternative restraints may be appropriate; i.e. when handcuffs are removed, use ankle or leg restraints (flex cuffs).
  3. Upon completion of the treatment, replace the restraints on the prisoner(s).
  4. If the required medical treatment restricts the officer's access to the prisoner(s) or the use of the restraints, the officer will comply with the attending physician's directions only after the physician has been advised of safety concerns. **If the prisoner(s) in question is, in the officer's opinion, a risk to the officer's safety or the safety of the medical staff, or may attempt to escape, then a minimum of two (2) officers will be in attendance.**
- E. During medical transports, the officer will be especially aware of his/her duty weapon and protect it at all times.
- F. The officer will obtain all appropriate paperwork, medical releases, instructions, and/or medication from the hospital when the treatment is completed.
- G. If the prisoner(s) is to be incarcerated, the transporting officer will ensure that all medical paperwork and medication is turned over to the receiving officer at the detention facility.
- H. If the prisoner(s) refuses medical treatment, he must do so in the presence of medical personnel. The hospital will be requested to provide documentation of the refusal.

### **30.3.3 Special Situations**

South Miami Police Officers are authorized to transport prisoners to:

1. The South Miami Police Station for processing and interviews,
2. To crime scenes for investigative purposes,
3. MDPD warrants to verify open arrest warrants,
4. MDPD ID section to verify a prisoner's identity,
5. Other law enforcement offices in pursuit of legitimate law enforcement reasons,
6. Local jail facilities,
7. Juvenile Detention centers,
8. Medical Facilities for treatment of injuries or illness.