



# SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



## 523.13 HOSPITAL PRISONER SECURITY 06-29-16

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for prisoner security, movement, transportation, and confinement, at a medical facility.

### POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department that officers use the appropriate techniques and equipment when restraining prisoners who require transportation to, from, or within a medical facility.

### PROCEDURE

#### A. DEFINITION

For the purposes of this section, the term PRISONER shall mean any person in the custody of the Sacramento Police Department pursuant to a criminal offense. Persons detained pursuant to Section 5150 of the Welfare and Institutions Code are explicitly NOT included in this definition.

#### B. HOSPITAL WATCH

1. When a prisoner is to be admitted to a medical facility for any reason, the Hospital Watch Prisoner Security Kit shall be utilized.
  - a. Hospital Watch Prisoner Security Kits are located in the emergency rooms within the UCD Medical Center, Sutter General, Mercy General, Kaiser South, and Methodist Hospital. The kits shall consist of
    - (1) Two (2) pairs of handcuffs.
    - (2) One (1) pair of blue leg shackles.
    - (3) Five (5) pairs of flex cuffs.
    - (4) One (1) pair of EMT scissors (for removal of flex cuffs).
    - (5) One (1) Hospital Watch Prisoner Security Log Binder containing Hospital Prisoner Watch Log forms (SPD 916), equipment checklist, and a copy of this General Order.
  - b. It shall be the responsibility of the Hospital Unit sergeant to conduct a quarterly audit of the Prisoner Watch Security Kits at each of the medical facilities and assure they contain all of the necessary items.
2. Each officer assigned to a hospital watch shall complete the SPD 916 (Hospital Prisoner Watch Log).
3. Officers shall utilize handcuffs, leg shackles, and/or flex cuffs to secure prisoners at medical facilities. In the case of extenuating circumstances in which officers are unable to secure the prisoner with handcuffs, leg shackles, and/or flex cuffs, officers shall notify their supervisors.
  - a. Officers shall take care not to restrict the flow of blood to the prisoner's ankles.
  - b. Leg shackles shall be double locked to reduce the risk of injury to the prisoner.
  - c. Flex cuffs or soft restraints may be utilized when a medical or surgical treatment does not allow metal restraints.
  - d. Leg shackles can be obtained
    - (1) From the Hospital Watch Prisoner Security Kit.
    - (2) By any patrol sergeant.
    - (3) Inside the booking area of the Sacramento County Main Jail inside the Sacramento Police Department locker.
  - e. Prisoners will not be left unattended at any time. When unable to accompany a prisoner to surgery, X-Ray, CT SCAN, etc., the officer shall maintain visual contact with the prisoner. When unable to do so, the officer shall remain at a location where he/she can be quickly summoned for assistance by medical staff.
  - f. When prisoners are admitted into a medical facility, officers may work with the staff in placing prisoners on the "black-out" list (if necessary).



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## C. VISITATION RIGHTS OF THE PRISONER

1. The watch commander can restrict prisoner visitations. Factors to be considered when making this determination include, but are not limited to
  - a. The crime charged.
  - b. Suspected gang involvement.
  - c. The prisoner's criminal history.
  - d. Officer safety and staffing capabilities.
  - e. The integrity of the investigation and the safety of third parties, patients, and medical staff.
2. If the prisoner is allowed to have visitors, the watch commander shall
  - a. Check with the administration of the medical facility regarding visiting hours, number of visitors, and any applicable regulations the medical facility has for patients' visitors.
  - b. Limit the number of visitors, if needed, due to officer safety, patient safety, safety of medical facility's staff, or other compelling justification provided any limitation is narrowly tailored.
  - c. Determine the hours and/or frequency of visits for the prisoner.
3. A prisoner shall not be denied access to a licensed attorney summoned by the prisoner or a relative of the prisoner.
4. Prior to the meeting between a prisoner and a visitor/attorney, officers shall request consent to conduct a limited frisk/pat down search of the visitor/attorney and belongings for weapons/contraband (consistent with safety regulations at a secure facility – e.g., jail).
5. If the visitor/attorney objects to the limited frisk/pat down search, they shall **not** be allowed to see the prisoner. **NOTE:** Notify the watch commander of any instances where a visitor/attorney is denied visitation.
6. Officers shall request photo identification and a California State Bar Card from a prisoner's attorney. An attorney's status with the California State Bar can be queried at [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov).
7. When a meeting between the prisoner and his/her attorney takes place, officers shall make arrangements with medical personnel to obtain a secure room away from other patients at the facility.

**NOTE: Officers shall remove themselves from the immediate presence of a private conversation between the prisoner and his/her attorney, but remain in the general area (e.g., outside the room entrance).**

## D. MEDICAL CLEARANCE

After medical clearance for incarceration

1. Upon discharge from the medical facility, prisoners shall remain handcuffed. If possible, the leg shackles shall be removed and returned to the Hospital Watch Prisoner Security Kit at the time the prisoner is to be transported for incarceration. A minimum of two officers should escort the prisoner to the patrol car.
2. SPD officers assigned as contracted hospital cars, and/or hospital officers (e.g., UCDPD, Securitas, etc.) will assist with prisoner escort or temporary relief for the Hospital Watch Officer when available.
3. When the above-listed units are unavailable, Hospital Watch Officers should request a patrol unit for assistance when escorting a prisoner to the patrol car.
4. The Hospital Prisoner Watch Log form shall be turned in with the Arrest Report.
5. The booking officer shall be responsible for ensuring the Hospital Watch Prisoner Security Kit and all contents are returned to the proper medical facility. If anything is missing, the attending officer shall notify the district sergeant.