

Department of Public Safety / Division of Corrections

CHAPTER:	3	Institutional Operations	3.1.24
SECTION:	1	Security and Control	EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/28/03
SUBJECT:	24	Restraint Chair	
APPROVED: _____ Gene Stubblefield SUPERINTENDENT OF CORRECTIONS			REVISION DATE: 12 / 18 / 06
			DATE:
Reviewed:			

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Division of Corrections to use a restraint chair to provide safe containment of an inmate exhibiting violent or uncontrollable behavior and to prevent self injury, injury to others or property damage when other control techniques have failed to yield the desired result.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for custody and medical staff on the use of the restraint chair.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to all custody and medical staff of the Division of Corrections.

IV. STANDARDS

ACA Adult Local Detention Facilities, 4th Edition

2B-02

Restraint devices are never applied as punishment. There are defined circumstances under which supervisory approval is needed prior to application.

2B-07

Written reports are submitted to the facility administrator or designee no later than the conclusion of the tour of duty when any of the following occur:

- discharge of a firearm or other weapon
- use of less lethal devices to control inmates
- use of force to control inmates
- inmate(s) remaining in restraints at the end of the shift.

V. DEFINITIONS

Qualified Health Professional (QHP): An individual with the qualification of a Registered Nurse or above, and is permitted by law to practice medicine or to evaluate and care for the physical and mental health needs of inmates.

Restraint Chair: A chair with small wheels that has restraint features and transport capabilities for an inmate even while they are under restraint, and is used to limit the movement of inmates who require extreme measures of control.

Rubber Room: An unfurnished cell unit with padded walls and limited plumbing fixtures designed for temporary isolation of violent inmates or inmates with uncontrollable behavior, who show tendency to injure themselves or others.

VI. CANCELLATION

This policy cancels all previous Division policies, statements, memorandums, directives, orders, notices, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this policy.

VII. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Authorization for Use

The Superintendent of Corrections, Deputy Superintendent, Duty Officer or a qualified health professional may authorize the use of the restraint chair by following the procedures stipulated in this policy and as follows:

- a. Authorization will always be in conjunction with a qualified health professional.
- b. Authorization for use of the restraint chair for an inmate with a serious mental illness may only be given after a psychiatrist, physician or qualified mental health professional agrees there are no medical or mental health reasons not to use it.
- c. The restraint chair will never be authorized as a form of punishment.

- d. The restraint chair shall only be used for a maximum time frame of three hours in any given encounter unless otherwise re-authorized by the designated authorizing body. No inmate shall be restrained in the chair in excess of eight hours in any such encounter regardless of behavior.
 - e. Inmates who continue to exhibit uncontrollable behavior after the facility's eight hour limit has been reached shall be placed in regular handcuffs and leg irons and placed in the Rubber Room. Handcuffs and leg irons shall be removed once the inmate has been placed in the isolated cell. The Shift Commander can authorize the inmate to remain restrained if inmate's behavior continues to be violent or is deemed a security risk. The continued use of instruments of restraint shall not exceed two hours unless specifically approved by the Superintendent. Inmate will remain in isolation until behavior improves.
 - f. A Divisional approved chemical agent may be used to aid in gaining control of an inmate before attempting to place such inmate in the restraint chair. (See 3.2.15: Use of Chemical Agent)
 - g. Only correctional custody staff trained in the use of the restraint chair will place an inmate in it. A minimum of two (2) correctional officers and a supervisor will be present to assist in the placement of the inmate in, or removal from the restraint chair.
 - h. In an extreme situation that requires immediate security decision and action to prevent destructive behavior or harm to staff or others, the Shift Commander may authorize the use of the chair during non-business hours. Approval must however be sought immediately following placement for continued use.
2. Condition for Use

Staff may use the restraint chair for emergencies in any or all of the following conditions:

- a. When an inmate has demonstrated violent or uncontrollable behavior,
- b. To prevent inmate self injury, injury to others or continuous act of inflicting serious property damage when other techniques have been ineffective in assisting the inmate to regain control,
- c. Upon recommendation by a psychiatrist, physician, or qualified health professional in consultation with the Superintendent of Corrections or designee,

- d. As a means of moving a combative inmate safely from one section of the facility to another.
3. The following may constitute reason not to use restraint chair:
 - a. Serious injury, fracture or wounds that would preclude such use,
 - b. Documented significant peripheral vascular disease that would preclude such use,
 - c. Recent surgery or hospitalization that would preclude such use,
 - d. Significant heart disease manifested by frequent angina, etc.,
 - e. Any other reason as may be determined by a qualified health professional.
4. The foregoing steps in item #3 can only be determined by a qualified health professional and no other. (See DOC Form#3.1.24-2)
5. Corrections Officers may use reasonable force to gain control to place inmate in the restraint chair if inmate refuses to cooperate. (See 3.1.21: Use of Force).
6. If force is used to restrain an inmate to the ground, bed, floor, etc., before being placed in a restraint chair, once the inmate is cuffed, staff shall:
 - a. Place the inmate in a sitting position or on the side,
 - b. Never keep the inmate face down by placing inmate on stomach,
 - c. Never sit on or put their weight down on an inmate's back,
 - d. Maintain observation of the inmate to recognize breathing difficulties or loss of consciousness,
 - e. Be alert to problems such as obesity, alcohol and drug use, or psychotic behavior.
7. Custody Officers will remove inmate from the restraint chair when the Shift Commander and a qualified health professional have determined that there is no longer a threat to self or others, and the inmate can be managed by other means.
8. After three hours of continuous restraint in the chair, the Shift Commander and/or qualified health professional staff will seek permission for additional time period

Department of Public Safety / Division of Corrections

in which an inmate may remain restrained. This request will depend upon the inmate's behavior while in the restraint chair.

9. The Shift Commander will make request through the Superintendent of Corrections or Deputy Superintendent.
10. The medical staff will obtain such authorization from a qualified health professional.
11. No inmate shall be placed in the restraint chair naked or left fully unclothed while in the restraint chair; at a minimum inmate must be in an undergarment and, if not practical, covered with suicide smock or a blanket.
12. Inmates in the restraint chair will receive the same meal as inmates in the general population. The meal will be served on a disposable plate.
13. Inmate will be given access to a toilet at reasonable intervals if requested.
14. Staff will complete the Restraint Chair Log Form, Use of Force Form and Incident Report and submit them to the Superintendent thru the Chief of Security within the required frame of time. The Superintendent will review all reports for compliance with relevant policies and procedures.

VIII. FORMS

The following forms are included within this policy and procedure:

Incident Report Form
Restraint Chair Log Form
Restraint Chair Medical Approval Form
Use of Force Form

IX. PROCEDURES

A. Placement in the Restraint Chair

1. Before placing an inmate in the restraint chair, the Shift Commander will:
 - a. Obtain an approved signed copy of DOC Form #3.1.24-2 from the divisional qualified health professional/designee who completes the Restraint Chair Medical Approval Form and ascertains that there are no medical reasons not to place the inmate in a restraint chair. The form shall be filed with the Incident Report.

- b. If advance approval cannot be obtained and only in cases where destructive behavior will result in the immediate harm to self, staff, others or property, then such approval shall be sought immediately after placing an inmate in the chair.
 - c. Have at least two (2) Correctional Officers to secure an inmate in the restraint chair. This may be facilitated by more staff to increase staff safety. The Shift Commander must also be present.
 - d. Direct another Correctional Officer to obtain the hand held Video Camcorder to record the use and placement of the inmate in the restraint chair.
 - e. Authorize the Master Control Officer to record the use and placement of the inmate in the restraint chair via CCTV if the hand held Camcorder is unavailable.
 - f. Direct the Corrections Officer or the Master Control Officer when to start and stop recording the use of restraint chair and the placement of the inmate.
2. The Correctional Officers will:
- a. Position the chair in an upright position. Never lay it on its back while occupied
 - b. Restrain the inmate with leg irons and handcuffs behind the inmate's back as stipulated in Policy #3.1.20: Restraints.
 - c. Lift the wheels of the chair before placing an inmate in it.
3. While placing an inmate in the restraint chair, the Correctional Officers will:
- a. Position the inmate in front of the chair with the inmate's back toward the seat, with an officer on each side guiding the inmate into the seat and maintaining control of the inmate.
 - b. While the inmate is seated, pull the shoulder straps from the slots near the top edges of the chair. Bring the left strap across inmate's left shoulder, to the front, and clinch into the right side slots at the edge of the seat. Repeat the process for the right strap and clinch into the left slot. Adjust the straps by pulling up the excess on the clip end of the straps.

- c. Place the padded portion of the chair's wrist restraint under the hand of the inmate so that the pad is facing the skin of the inmate and the padded portion of the chair's wrist restraint is pointed toward the officer's left side. Wrap the padded portion of the chair's wrist restraint around the wrist and firmly draw the soft side of the Velcro strap over across the backside of the padded portion. Repeat the process for the other hand.
- d. Place the padded portion of the chair's leg restraint on the inmate's legs so that the pad is facing the skin of the inmate and the padded end is pointed toward the officer's left side. Wrap the padded portion of the chair's ankle restraint around the ankle, and firmly draw the soft side of the Velcro strap over across the backside of the padded portion to tighten.
- e. Wrap the remaining portion of the restraint around the Velcro surrounding the wrist or ankle and thread the remaining strap through the rings on the end of strap; then thread the strap back over the first and under the second ring and draw tight.
- f. Put the end of the strap with the eyelet through the slot in the chair or leg restraint whichever is appropriate and bolt to the base of the chair. Draw loose strap tight so that the wrist and restraint are pinned back against the chair.
- g. Take the attached padded strap with metal tip that's in the front of the chair and place the front of the padded strap around the front of the legs. Take the opposite strap with buckle and place the metal tip into the buckle and clinch tight but not so tight as to cause pain or restrict circulation.
- h. Pull the center strap from the bottom of the leg restraint, around the outside of the padded leg strap and through the ring at the top of the leg restraint and draw tight.
- i. Not wrap any of the belt or straps around the head or neck of the inmate.
- j. Be aware, at all times, of staff's position in relation to the inmate's head, to reduce the chances of being bitten or spat on.
- k. Apply a surgical mask or spit hood, if available, if the inmates engages in spitting or biting behavior. Mask or spit hood will be removed as soon as possible.

B. After Restraint Chair placement

1. The Shift Commander will:

Department of Public Safety / Division of Corrections

- a. Immediately request a medical staff to assess inmate's well being.
 - b. Assign a Correctional Officer to remain with the inmate until the arrival of the medical staff person to assess the inmate's well being.
 - c. Have the inmate physically separated and isolated from other inmates to avoid being ridiculed or made an object of ridicule.
 - d. Review the use of the restraint chair once every one (1) hour, and:
 - 1). Talk with the inmate,
 - 2). Check the restraints for comfort and security,
 - 3). Develop an appropriate plan for release,
 - 4). Check the Restraint Chair Log Form for appropriate entries
 - e. Assign a Correctional Officer to conduct routine round checks and record visual observations of the inmate for as long as the inmate remains in the chair.
 - f. Order for the inmate to be transported to any area in the facility for observation.
 - g. Order the Correctional Officer who requested the use of restraint chair to complete an Incident Report per Policy #3.1.10.
 - h. Arrange for transportation if medical staff recommends that inmate be taken to hospital.
2. The medical staff will:
- a. Examine the inmate (circulation, limb color, etc.) at least every 30 minute if inmate is a serious mental health patient, or every one (1) hour for non-mental health patient inmates;
 - b. Exercise the inmate's limbs every (2) hour,
 - c. Consult with the Shift Commander to ensure inmate will not pose a threat during the exercise,
 - d. Direct the Correctional Officer to free inmate's limbs one at a time from restraints and for a period of 2 minutes for each limb,

- e. Assess the inmate's mental health status at least every 30 minutes,
 - f. Communicate the inmate's status to Correctional Officers,
 - g. Document the examination on the Restraint Chair Log Form.
3. The Corrections Officer will:
- a. Apply a pair of shower shoes if available, to the inmate's feet.
 - b. Maintain direct visual observation and conducts rounds on the inmate every 15 minutes until the inmate is removed from the restraint chair or until the officer is properly relieved.
 - c. Document in the Restraint Chair Log Form the reason inmate was placed in the restraint chair and the authorizing authority, any unusual behavior by inmate, inmate's physical condition, the time inmate was placed in the restraint chair, the time of observation checks, inmate requests for use of restroom, time inmate was fed, and the time inmate was taken out of the restraint chair.
 - d. The Restraint Chair log Form is completed before the end of the tour of duty for the shift on which the inmate was placed in and removed from the chair. The Restraint Chair Log Form once completed is to be submitted to the Chief of Security.

C. Feeding

1. During meal time, the Correctional Officer will:
- a. Advise inmate that any disruptive act during attempt to feed will be regarded as refusing to eat,
 - b. set the plate on inmate's lap,
 - c. Free one limb to allow inmate to feed,
 - d. Remain with and monitor the inmate during feeding,
 - e. Retrieve disposable plate from inmate upon finishing,
 - f. Re-secure inmate's limb,

- g. Document feeding or refusals in the Restraint Chair Log Form.
 2. If while attempting to serve an inmate with meal, the inmate becomes disruptive or if in the opinion of the Shift Commander the freeing of a limb to allow inmate to feed will pose a threat of harm to the inmate being restrained or others, the inmate's action shall be interpreted as refusing to eat.
- D. Use of Restroom**
1. Inmate requests thru the Correctional Officer to use the restroom,
 2. The Correctional Officer discusses request with immediate supervisor who in turn will discuss the request with the Shift Commander,
 3. The Shift Commander approves/disapproves request.
 4. If disapproved, the Shift Commander documents action in the Shift Commander's "comment" section in the Restraint Chair Log Form.
 5. If approved, the immediate supervisor calls one additional Correctional Officer and supervises both officers to assist inmate to the restroom.
 6. The supervisor advises inmate that any disruptive act during effort to provide assistance to the inmate in using the restroom will be regarded as refusal to use the restroom.
 7. While the inmate is still in the chair, the Correctional Officer shall apply leg irons on inmate's legs.
 8. The Correctional Officer releases the restraint chair straps on the inmate's legs.
 9. The Correctional Officer follows the procedures found under sections C & E in Policy #3.1.20 and release inmate from the restraint chair and escorts the inmate to the restroom except that inmate remains in leg irons while using restroom and until re-secured in the restraint chair.
 10. If inmate becomes uncooperative while, or after, being removed from the restraint chair, the Correctional Officer restrains the inmate back in the chair and inmate will not be allowed to use the restroom.
 11. If the inmate urinates or defecates while in the restraint chair, the Correctional Officer obtains a protective mask, a disposable gloves, and a bio-hazard plastic bag from medical unit for the officer's own use. The Corrections Officer wheels

the inmate into the shower area, follows step #8 under this section and supervises the inmate in removing the soiled clothes.

12. If inmate remains uncooperative, the Correctional Officer leaves the inmate restrained in the chair to determine when appropriate clean up of inmate can be made.
13. The Correctional Officer bags the soiled clothes and arranges for the items to be sent to the laundry for cleaning. (See policy # 4.3.4: Laundry).
14. The Correctional Officer enters comment in the “Security Staff” comment section in the Restraint Chair Log Form.

E. Removal from the Restraint Chair

1. The decision to remove the inmate from the restraint chair will be made by:
 - a. The Shift Commander in consultation with a qualified health professional,
 - b. The qualified health professional in consultation with the Shift Commander when a health care emergency precipitated the use of the restraint chair.
2. Consultation must take place regardless of the purpose of the restraint.
3. If inmate remains in the chair at shift change, the Shift Commander on whose shift the inmate was placed in the restraint chair may, on the basis of the inmate’s behavior, recommend removing the inmate from the chair or letting the relieving Commander decide later if removing the inmate from the chair at the present time will pose a serious security risk.
4. The relieving Shift Commander must interview the inmate to further assess security risk and advises the relieving officer to start a new observation log with the name of the relieving Commander as the authorizing authority. Inmate will be credited with the time previously spent prior to the shift change over. Authorization for time extension may be sought by the relieving Shift Commander if it becomes necessary to do so. The “Continuous Observation” section must be checked in the Restraint Chair Log Form.
5. The Shift Commander shall authorize the recording of an inmate at the time the inmate is being removed from the restraint chair.
6. A minimum of two (2) Correctional Officers and a supervisor will be present when an inmate is being removed from the restraint chair.

7. The Correctional Officer shall release tension on the shoulder straps by using the tip end of a handcuff key, or the tip end of an ink pen and insert it into the tiny hole at the slot chamber on the sides of the restraint chair, depress it and unbuckle the straps.
8. The Correctional Officer shall release tension on the right wrist strap by pulling up on the Velcro strap. Loosening the wrist strap, and remove the inmate's right wrist from the restraint chair. The Correctional Officer shall repeat the process for the left wrist.
9. The Correctional Officer shall release tension on the ankle straps by un-wrapping the restraint from around the Velcro surrounding the ankle, and remove the inmate's ankles from the straps.
10. The Correctional Officer shall direct the inmate to get out of the restraint chair and the inmate shall be escorted to assigned holding cell or area.
11. The Correctional Officer shall document the removal of the inmate from the restraint chair by recording the date, time, and the name of the Shift Commander on the Restraint Chair Log Form.
12. The Shift Commander shall sign in the appropriate place on the Restraint Chair Log Form to indicate the authorized removal of the inmate from the chair.
13. The Shift Commander shall request a medical staff to examine the inmate immediately after removal from the restraint chair.

X. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any part of this policy is, for any reason, held to be in excess of the authority of the appointing authority, such decisions will not affect any other part of this policy.

XI. TRAINING

This policy and procedure will be included in the First-Year and subsequent In-Service Training for staff having direct contact with the inmate population:

- a. The Superintendent and the Human Resources Manager will ensure that all personnel who may be called upon to operate the restraint chair are trained in the proper technique for its use.

Department of Public Safety / Division of Corrections

- b. The Training Academy, the Chief of Security, the Human Resources Manager and the Shift Commander will maintain a list of all staff trained in the use of the restraint chair.
- c. The Deputy Superintendent and the Compliance Auditor will work with Human Resources Manager to ensure that all appropriate personnel are trained in the provisions of this policy.