
Purpose

This policy recognizes that all Bemidji Police Officers will be required to handcuff, search and transport both males and female suspects. This policy will establish safe, appropriate and secure actions for these activities.

Policy

It is the policy of the Bemidji Police Dept. to handcuff all persons taken into custody for any reason, or those deemed a safety risk to themselves or others. The Bemidji Police Department will search every person secured by handcuffs prior to transport in a police vehicle. Officers engaged in transportation of a custodial arrestee will transport without delay and in a safe operating manner.

A. HANDCUFFING.

- a. Whenever an officer deploys handcuffs, the handcuffs shall be properly spaced using a finger spacing method to ensure proper fit and will also be double-locked to prevent inadvertent tightening.
- b. Exceptions to handcuffing;
 - i. The arrested person is physically incapable of being handcuffed.
 - ii. The arrested person is a child under the age of 10, unless the discretion of the officer deems that the child is a safety or flight risk.
- c. Officers will not handcuff any person to a transporting vehicle while the vehicle is in motion.

B. SEARCHES OF IN-CUSTODY PERSONS.

- a. Officers will search the exterior body and clothing of any person placed under arrest prior to transport in a police vehicle.
- b. Officers will use discretion when performing searches to avoid inappropriate contact with sensitive areas, while remaining courteous.
- c. Officers make should every effort to use same sex officers to search in-custody persons. If an officer of the same sex is not available, officers may search persons in-custody under the watch of another officer, while documenting their search with BWC and/or SCVC. At times, form fitting or tightly worn clothing may be visually inspected in lieu of pat-down searches.
- d. Officers should not allow in-custody persons to maintain any bags, packs, phones or other articles within reach.
- e. Officers will not perform “strip-searches” without appropriate search warrant, and should avoid removing any articles of contraband from any body cavity. In these instances, officers apply for a search warrant then provide appropriate transport to a medical facility for assistance and removal of any foreign material.

C. TRANSPORTATION.

- a. Prior to placing a person into a squad car, officers should check the transport area of the vehicle. Immediately after transport this area should again be inspected to ensure the in-custody person has not deposited any contraband.
- b. Officers should ensure that the in-custody person is safely secured in the rear of the patrol vehicle.
- c. Officers should conduct transportation of in-custody persons in a safe and timely manner utilizing the most direct route to the destination.
- d. Officers will ensure activation of the Body Worn Camera / Squad Car Video Camera in compliance with the BWC/SCVC policy.
- e. When transporting an in-custody person of the opposite sex, the officer should document starting mileage and ending mileage via radio transmission with dispatch if the BWC/ SCVC is inoperative.
- f. A hobble type leg restraint is provided in each police vehicle and, at the discretion of the officer, may be used in order to prevent injury or property damage.

D. TRANSPORTATION –NON-CUSTODIAL.

- a. Officers may provide transportation to citizens in need.
- b. Citizens requesting a ride must:
 - i. Identify themselves by full name and date of birth for reporting purposes.
 - ii. Allow the officer to perform a pat down search for weapons.
- c. Officers should not allow any persons to maintain any bags, packs, phones or other articles within reach.
- d. When possible safety belts should be used by all persons when in transit.
- e. Officers should conduct transportation of citizens in a safe and timely manner utilizing the most direct route to the destination.
- f. Officers will ensure activation of the Body Worn Camera / Squad Car Video Camera.

Reference or Revision Date(s):

A. REVISION DATE(S):