



# Arkansas Community Correction

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## ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE: 17-12 USE OF RESTRAINTS

**TO: ARKANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTION EMPLOYEES**

**FROM: SHEILA SHARP , DIRECTOR**

**SUPERSEDES: AD 00-01**

**APPROVED: Signature on file EFFECTIVE: March 10, 2017**

- I. APPLICABILITY.** Arkansas Community Correction employees.
- II. POLICY.** Restraints will be used only when necessary and by trained employees as prescribed in this directive and in accordance with “Use of Force” policy. Appropriate circumstances for using restraints include protection of self or others, deterrence from escape, control of significant behavioral problems or for medical reasons at the direction of a physician or psychiatrist.
- III. DEFINITIONS.**
  - A. Restraints.** Security equipment used to restrict movement of offenders to include handcuffs, leg irons, security belts and emergency restraint chairs.
  - B. Offenders.** Persons in custody or under supervision of Arkansas Community Correction by order of the courts or Parole Board.
- IV. GUIDELINES.**
  - A. Situations when Restraints may be used.**
    1. When an offender is being arrested;
    2. When an offender is being transported. Exceptions may be made when transporting for work crew/detail, work study, sports competitions, medical appointment of residents and other situations specified by Residential Center Supervisors;

3. When an offender has threatened violence or shown a propensity for violence or self injury;
4. When a judge or the Parole Board requires the offender to wear restraints while in court, at a hearing or otherwise;
5. When necessary to protect staff, offenders or others from harm or to deter the possibility of escape; or
6. When necessary to render medical or mental health care.

**B. Use of Restraint Equipment.**

1. All Offenders.

- a. Mechanical Restraints should be applied only by employees trained to use restraints and in accordance with Policy on Use of Force.
- b. Unless circumstances indicate removal is appropriate, restraints should not be removed until the offender is placed in a secure area or delivered to the receiving authority as specified by the Center Supervisor, Area Manager or court/Parole Board authority and a receipt is received.
- c. Restraints shall not be placed around the neck of an offender or applied in any way which inflicts physical pain or restricts blood circulation or breathing.
- d. Use of restraints in a cell shall be determined by the Center Supervisor in consultation with medical/mental health authority.
- e. Restraints shall not be used as punishment and shall not be used longer than necessary.

2. Residential Center Residents.

- a. Emergency Restraint Chair (ERC). The ERC may be used in residential centers to help control combative, self-destructive or potentially violent residents. Violent behavior may mask dangerous medical conditions; therefore, detained residents must be monitored for and provided with medical or mental health treatment when needed. When the ERC is used, the staff person authorizing use of the ERC must notify the Medical Department. Medical personnel will quickly respond to assess the restrained resident's condition. Assessment will be for appropriate circulation and will occur every fifteen (15) minutes until release. Circulation (in areas where straps or restrictive devices inhibit movement), ability to breathe appropriately, skin color, and other medical signs (as appropriate) will be observed and documented in the Medical Record. Only the Center Supervisor or Duty

Officers are authorized to approve placement of a resident in the ERC. Residents shall not be restrained in the ERC for more than 2 hours without being allowed to stand and move about under appropriate supervision. Other appropriate restraints (e.g., handcuffs and leg irons) may be used during this time. If the Crisis Intervention Team determines after the two (2) hours that the resident continues to exhibit violent behavior which may result in self injury or harm to others then they may continue restraints and review the decision to allow the resident to stand in conjunction with the fifteen (15) minute checks. The resident will only be re-restrained if necessary to protect the resident or others from potential harm. All Residential security staff will be trained to properly use the ERC and must receive annual refresher training. The Senior Residential Supervisor shall ensure proper training of employees and storage and accountability of the ERC.

- b. **Pregnant Residents.** Reasonable and prudent correctional practices shall be applied to pregnant residents. The use of security restraint devices, such as handcuffs/shackles, etc., shall be in accordance with established policy. At no time shall any such device be applied to a pregnant resident during the final stages of active labor, while occupying a delivery room, or if such application is determined by a physician to be a health risk to the unborn child or the health status of the resident. In situations where there exists a valid concern as to the appropriate level or degree of security restraint device(s) to be applied to a pregnant resident, the Deputy Director of Residential Services shall be contacted.

**C. Transporting or Escorting Restrained Offenders.**

1. If restraints are used, employees shall ensure security procedures and safety precautions are followed while escorting or transporting offenders (e.g. appropriate restraints properly applied, isolation from others during arrest, proper wearing of identification and weapons, use of well- maintained vehicle for transport) while escorting or transporting offenders.
2. When possible, at least one employee of the same gender as the offender should be present when transporting a restrained offender.

**D. Visits.** To avoid a security breach, restrained offenders are not permitted visits when being transported or escorted.

**V. STANDARDS.** American Correctional Association (ACA) Standards for Adult Community Residential Services, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition 4-ACRS-6A-03