


SOLANO COUNTY CALIFORNIA PROBATION DEPARTMENT	POLICY NUMBER: 607	EFFECTIVE DATE: April 3, 2016
	SUPERSEDES: June 30, 2007	
APPROVED BY:  CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER	TITLE: USE OF MECHANICAL RESTRAINTS	

1. **Policy** This policy provides guidance for the use of mechanical restraints such as handcuffs, and waist/belly chains by probation officers of the Solano County Probation Department (Department). The proper use and application of mechanical restraints can enhance officer safety during detentions, arrests, and transports. Although recommended for most arrest and transport situations, handcuffing is discretionary and not an absolute requirement of the Department, except when booking at the County Jail. Mechanical restraints shall not be applied by any probation officer who has not completed Department approved training in its proper application.

For the purposes of this policy, probation officer includes all sworn peace officer classifications, including Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Services Manager, as well as field group counselors.

2. **Procedures**

A. **Use of Restraints**

- (1) Mechanical restraints will be used as authorized and distributed by the Department. These devices include: handcuffs and waist chains/belly chains. Mechanical restraints not distributed by the Department shall not be used.
- (2) Restraints are to be carried in a discreet and secure manner that will allow easy access by the probation officer and should be applied in accordance with established Departmental training.
- (3) In most situations, handcuffs should be applied with the hands behind the person's back and shall always be double locked.
- (4) In situations where one pair of handcuffs does not appear sufficient to restrain the individual or may cause unreasonable discomfort due to the person's size, the probation officer should consider alternatives, such as using an additional set of handcuffs.
- (5) After the subject is securely restrained, check periodically to ensure the restraints are secure and are causing no injury.

- (6) Persons shall not be restrained to anyone or anything unless the immediate safety of the probation officer is in jeopardy. In no case shall a person be restrained to a vehicle. In the event a person must be restrained to an object, the probation officer should restrain the subject to a permanent object/fixture.
- (7) Restraints should be removed as soon as it is reasonable or after the person has been searched and is safely confined within a detention facility.
- (8) Probation officers are responsible for retrieving and/or securing Department issued restraints for use and for the return of these items, as appropriate.

B. Application of Waist Chains/Belly Chains

- (1) Waist chains/belly chains are intended for use during long-term restraint or transportation. They provide additional security and safety without impeding breathing, while permitting adequate movement, comfort, and mobility. The probation officer shall monitor any person in waist chains/belly chains as reasonable appears necessary.

C. Restraint of Detainees

- (1) Situations may arise where it may be reasonable to restrain an individual who may, after brief investigation, be released without arrest. Unless arrested, the use of restraints on detainees should continue only for as long as is reasonable necessary to assure the safety of the probation officer and others. When deciding whether to remove restraints from a detainee, probation officers should continuously weigh the safety interests at hand against the continuing intrusion upon the detainee.

D. Restraint of Pregnant Person

- (1) Persons who are known to be pregnant should be restrained in the least restrictive manner that is effective for officer safety and shall only be restrained by handcuffs in the front of the body.
- (2) No person who is in labor, delivery or recovery after delivery shall be handcuffed or restrained except in extraordinary circumstances and only when a supervisor makes an individualized determination that such restraints are necessary for the safety of the arrestee, probation officer, or others.

E. Restraint of Juveniles

- (1) A juvenile under 14 years of age or who claims s/he is under 14 years of age should not be restrained unless s/he is suspected of a dangerous felony, or when the probation officer has a reasonable suspicion that the juvenile may

resist, attempt escape, injure her/himself, injure the officer or damage property.

F. Documenting the Use of Restraints in Detentions

- (1) If a person is detained and placed in mechanical restraints and then released without an arrest, the probation officer shall document the details of the detention and the need for restraints in the Field Operation Report or in an incident report.

3. **Exceptions** Any exceptions to the provisions set forth in this Policy shall require prior written approval from the Chief Probation Officer.