

Prisoner Transport

323.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for transporting persons in the custody of officers of the Elk Grove Police Department.

While involved in the transportation of prisoners officers are required to follow the policy articulated in Section 354, Handcuff Policy.

323.2 GENERAL PROCEDURES

Transporting Prisoners is a potentially dangerous function. Therefore, it is the policy of the Elk Grove Police Department to take the precautions necessary while transporting prisoners to protect the lives and safety of officers, the public and the person in custody.

Prisoners should be transported in vehicles equipped for that purpose. This equipment includes security screen partitions which separate the front and rear seats of patrol vehicles or sections of a transport van. Prisoners may be transported in other Department vehicles if circumstances dictate and with the approval of a supervisor.

Prior to transportation, prisoners will be restrained in seat belts if available.

The number of prisoners being transported shall be limited to available seats in that vehicle. For example, in a standard patrol vehicle, no more than two prisoners will be transported in the back seat at one time.

All prisoners, before being transported, shall be searched for weapons and devices that may be used to affect an escape.

After transportation is complete, the back seat area shall be searched.

323.3 TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS BY OFFICERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX

Upon beginning the transport of a prisoner of the opposite sex the transporting officer shall contact EGPD Communications by radio and request that the time and odometer mileage be logged.

Officers shall drive directly to the destination by using the shortest practical route.

Upon arrival at the destination, officers shall contact Communications by radio and request that the time and the odometer reading be logged.

323.4 TRANSPORTING JUVENILES

If a minor commits a crime or criminal traffic offense and transportation of the offender is necessary, the minor shall not be placed in a patrol car or prisoner transport van which contains an adult under arrest unless it is necessary to ensure the safety of the juvenile, the officer or the public. As soon as possible the juvenile prisoner shall be transferred to an EGPD vehicle that does not contain an adult prisoner.

Elk Grove Police Department

Elk Grove PD Policy Manual

Prisoner Transport

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Officers shall drive directly to the destination by using the shortest practical route.

Upon arrival at the destination officers shall contact Communications by radio and request that the time and the odometer reading be logged.

323.5 RESTRICTIONS

Male and female prisoners shall not be transported together in the back seat of a patrol vehicle unless it is necessary to ensure the immediate safety of the prisoner, the officer or the public. Males and females may be transported in the same vehicle; however they must be separated by a security screen partition.

A single officer shall not transport an adult prisoner in a vehicle without a security screen partition. This restriction does not apply to the transportation of one or more juveniles. The officer must, based upon age, size, and attitude of the offender(s), determine whether more than one (1) juvenile can be safely and securely transported in a vehicle without a security screen partition.

While transporting prisoners officers shall not engage in unrelated enforcement activity unless failure to act would risk death or serious bodily injury to themselves or another.

323.6 EXCEPTIONS

This policy may be bypassed with the approval of a supervisor, on a limited and temporary basis with written documentation.