



# Minneapolis Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Number:  
5-300

## Volume Five – Code of Conduct and Use of Force

### Use of Force

#### 5-305 Control Option- Restraints

(xx/xx/24)

Revisions to prior policies: (09/08/20) (12/22/20)

##### I. Purpose

This policy is intended to recognize and respect the sanctity of life and value of all human life, and to expand on the requirements of other force policies, specifically related to handcuffing.

##### II. Definitions

Terms defined in P&P 5-304:

- Carry
- Use

##### III. Policy

###### A. Conditions for Use of Handcuffs

###### 1. Objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional

Handcuffs may only be used when objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional, in order to provide for the safety of an officer or a third person, stop an attack, make an arrest, bring a person or situation safely under control, or prevent escape (as described in P&P 5-301). Officers are reminded that they shall use the lowest degree of force necessary (P&P 5-301).

When using handcuffs, officers must continually assess the situation and modulate their use of force accordingly as the level of resistance changes.

###### 2. Situational factors

Handcuff use is authorized when one or more of the following factors are present (including during arrests, investigative detentions, execution of search warrants, etc.):

- Articulate facts that the subject is physically uncooperative.
- Articulate facts that the subject may present a physical danger to themselves or others if not restrained.
- Reasonable possibility of flight based on the circumstances.

- Information that the subject possesses or has access to weapons, and presents a danger to the safety of the officer or others.
  - The detention of the subject closely follows a violent crime and the subject matches specific parts of a description.
  - The number of subjects involved in the action causes an articulable safety concern.
  - Articulable facts that the subject will be involved in a crime of violence that is about to occur.
- a. In accordance with P&P 5-302, officers shall document the circumstances necessitating handcuffing in the Narrative Text.
  - b. The authority to handcuff continues for only as long as the circumstances above exist. Officers should follow the force guiding principles in making this determination (P&P 5-301).
  - c. When a subject has been placed in handcuffs by another agency, officers shall not place MPD handcuffs on the subject until they have confirmed the factors necessitating handcuffs.

### 3. Subject factors

Before handcuffing a person who is a young juvenile, obviously pregnant, elderly, or frail, or has another apparent physical condition limiting their ability to cause physical harm, or when handcuffing would exacerbate an injury or medical condition, officers shall take into account individualized factors of the person including:

- Apparent age.
  - Body size.
  - Strength relative to the officer.
  - Known or perceived disabilities.
  - Apparent ability to cause physical harm.
  - Other risks posed by the person.
- a. If necessary to handcuff such a person, the officer shall document their considerations in the Narrative Text.

### **B. Checking handcuffs**

1. Officers shall check handcuffs for proper spacing and double lock as soon as it is safe to do so prior to transport.
2. When a handcuffed subject first complains that handcuffs are too tight or are hurting the subject, the officer having custody of the handcuffed subject shall, as soon as reasonably possible, check the handcuffs to make sure that they are properly spaced and properly

applied to the subject. If they are not properly spaced or applied (per training), they shall be readjusted and double-locked.

### **C. Plastic Handcuffs**

1. Plastic handcuffs may be used in mass arrest situations when the conditions for standard handcuff use apply. They should be available in all Sergeants' vehicles.
2. Plastic handcuffs may also be used to supplement standard handcuffs in emergency situations.
3. When using plastic handcuffs, the officer should monitor the subject to prevent injury.

### **D. Specifications for Handcuffs**

1. Every officer shall carry at least one set of handcuffs while working in a uniform or plainclothes capacity.
2. Handcuffs shall comply with the following requirements:
  - a. Authorized Brands: Smith & Wesson or Peerless.
  - a. Authorized Styles: Hinged or Chain.
  - b. Double locking mechanism.
  - c. Black or Chrome finish.