

**CHAPTER 21**

**HANDCUFFING/STANDING/WALKING/FLEX-CUFFING**

**REVISED NOVEMBER 2020**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION.....21-3  
    Officer Safety Techniques .....21-3

POLICY .....21-4  
    Handcuffing Requirements .....21-4  
    Exceptions .....21-4  
    Judgment.....21-4

SUBJECT SETUP.....21-5



## CHAPTER 21

### HANDCUFFING/STANDING/WALKING/FLEX-CUFFING

#### 1. INTRODUCTION.

a. Officer Safety Techniques. To be effective, officers must use officer safety techniques that are reasonable and provide maximum protection. The techniques outlined in this manual are designed to provide the officer maximum protection when making a physical arrest.

b. Three Principles. The basic principles for all handcuffing techniques are balance, awareness, and control.

(2) Awareness is the ability to observe an entire situation, being specifically aware of hazards common to law enforcement officers when approaching a subject.

(3) Control is the degree of influence an officer must exert over a subject in order to bring the subject into custody. The officer must also have control of their emotions and is expected to act in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner, based on the facts and circumstances presented to them at the time of the event.

## 2. POLICY.

a. Handcuffing Requirements. All persons arrested on a charge requiring incarceration shall be handcuffed. Handcuffs shall be applied with the subject's hands in a position to the rear.

(1) The subject's hands should be cuffed in a position to provide maximum protection to the officer and to the subject.

(2) Tighten handcuffs only to the extent necessary to prevent escape.

(3) Set the double-lock mechanism. This will prevent accidental tightening and minimize the possibility of the subject picking the lock.

b. Exceptions. At the officer's discretion, the following persons may be exempted from handcuffing to the rear:

(1) Sick, injured, or disabled. Handcuffs should be secured in a manner that would not aggravate the person's condition.

(2) Elderly.

(3) Visibly pregnant.

c. Judgment. Sound professional judgment shall be used when exceptions are made and alternative safety precautions should be taken to guard against injury and/or escape.

(1) No policy can possibly account for all of the factors and situations an officer could face. The methods described in the manual were chosen for ease of use and designed for compliant subjects. Officers who utilize a control hold or handcuffing techniques that do not mirror the techniques in this manual must justify their actions based on the objective reasonableness of the circumstances.



































































































