

## Hobble Restraint

### 306.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The proper use and application of the Hobble restraint can reduce the potential of injury and damage to property when dealing with violent or potentially violent persons. This section provides guidelines, policy, and procedures for the proper use of the Hobble restraint procedure.

### 306.2 POLICY

When a deputy deems it reasonable to Hobble a violent or potentially violent person during the course of detention, arrest, and/or transportation, only those restraint devices approved by the Department shall be used, and only in the Departmentally approved manner for such temporary immobilization of the legs.

### 306.3 AUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT

The following restraint devices shall be provided to all field supervisors by the Department and are the only restraint devices authorized in the use of the Hobble restraint procedures. Deputies who have been departmentally trained in the use of these restraint devices may purchase and carry them on-duty at their own expense\*:

1. Ripp Hobble restraint device: The Ripp Hobble is made of one-inch wide polypropylene webbed belting with a tested strength of 700 lbs. The hobble has a one-inch wide side, alligator-jawed, friction-locking clip and steel-snap swivel. The overall length of the hobble shall be a minimum of 42 inches.
2. EZ Leg Control Belt: The EZ Leg Control Belt is a black nylon belt that is 2 inches wide with a 7 inch loop at the end with a tensile strength of 518 pounds. The control belt is equipped with a 2 inch black buckle, 2 inch D-Ring, and 3 inch Aluminum Carabiner. The overall length of the control belt is 90 inches.

*\*It shall be the responsibility of the individual Deputy to maintain and carry the device in a serviceable condition.*

**NO OTHER EQUIPMENT IS AUTHORIZED.**

### 306.4 USE OF HOBBLE RESTRAINT

In determining whether to use the Hobble restraint procedure, deputies should consider the following:

1. If the deputy and/or others are subject to harm due to the assaultive behavior of a violent, resisting, and/or attacking suspect.
2. If it is reasonable to protect the suspect from his/her own actions which would place him/her in danger e.g., hitting his/her head against the interior of the patrol unit, running away from the arresting deputy while handcuffed, kicking at objects or deputies.
3. Due caution should be considered when applying the Hobble restraint procedure on persons in the following classes:

# Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department

Orange County SD Policy Manual

## *Hobble Restraint*

---

- (a) Juveniles
  - (b) Pregnant women
  - (c) Persons who are visibly frail
  - (d) Individuals who have a preexisting medical condition that increases danger, and of which deputies become aware.
  - (e) Elderly
4. Other Considerations:
- (a) The distance between the Hobbled person and the transporting unit. If practical, bring the transporting unit to the Hobbled subject.
  - (b) Avoid having the Hobbled person walk long distances or challenging terrains (stairs and slopes, etc.) to the transporting unit. If the Hobbled person must be carried, a minimum of two deputies is preferred. At no time should the Hobble device be used to carry the person.
5. Deputies assigned to Custody Operations shall follow **CCOM Section 1800** in regards to the use of leg restraints, authorized equipment, and routine transportation of inmates.

### **306.5 PROCEDURE**

#### Hobbling procedures:

The Hobble restraint procedure shall be used only after a person has been handcuffed. The Hobble shall only be used with either the Ripp Hobble restraint device or the EZ Leg Control Belt to bind and immobilize a person's legs. Only those deputies trained in the use of the Hobble restraint procedure are authorized to employ it on any person. The following procedures shall be used when applying the Hobble restraint device:

1. If practical, deputy(s) should notify a supervisor of the intent to apply the Hobble. In all cases, a supervisor shall be notified as soon as practical after the application of the Hobble and the Field Supervisor shall respond to the scene.
2. Once secured, the person should be placed in a seated or upright position and shall not be placed on his/her stomach for an extended period as this may potentially reduce the person's ability to breathe.
3. Absent a medical emergency, the person being Hobbled shall remain restrained until the deputy arrives at the jail or other facility or the person no longer poses a threat.
4. The deputy is to ensure the person does not roll onto and remain on his/her stomach.
5. The deputy is to look for signs of labored breathing and, where practical, take appropriate steps to relieve and minimize any obvious factors contributing to this condition.

# Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department

Orange County SD Policy Manual

## *Hobble Restraint*

---

### **306.5.1 MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Prior to booking or release, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person(s) who has sustained visible injury, expressed a complaint of an injury or continuing pain, or who has been rendered unconscious. Based upon the deputy's initial assessment of the nature and extent of the subject's injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by fire personnel, paramedics, hospital staff, or medical staff at the jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practical, should be witnessed by another deputy and/or medical personnel and a supervisor notified. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond physical characteristics, unusually high tolerance to pain, or has been in a protracted physical encounter with multiple deputies to bring under control may be at an increased risk of sudden death and should be examined by qualified medical personnel as soon as practicable. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress after such an encounter shall be medically cleared prior to booking.

### **306.6 TRANSPORTING HOBBLING PERSONS**

When transporting a person who is Hobbled, deputies shall observe the following procedures:

1. Hobbled suspects may be transported in a patrol unit. They should be seated in an upright position and secured by a seatbelt. The long lead of the restraint should be placed outside the rear door and brought up through the front door to prevent the lead from dragging on the ground. When the person cannot be transported in a seated position he/she should be taken by ambulance/paramedic unit. Deputies shall inform the jail and jail medical staff that the arrestee/suspect had been Hobbled prior to arrival at the jail.
2. Deputies transporting arrestees/suspects in unmarked Department vehicles not equipped with a cage partition, may Hobble and transport arrestees/suspects who are cooperative, as an added security measure, to reduce the likelihood of escape, and for officer safety reasons (e.g., the transportation of arrestees/suspects by plain clothes personnel driving unmarked Department vehicles). However, if the arrestee/suspect is violent or may be potentially violent, they should be transported in a vehicle with a cage partition.

### **306.7 DOCUMENTATION**

Any use or application of the Hobble restraint shall require appropriate documentation. The Member should include the following in the report:

1. The amount of time the subject was Hobbled.
2. How the subject was transported and the position of the subject.
3. Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions.
4. Any known or suspected drug use or other medical problems by the subject.

### Non-Compliant Subjects

# Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department

Orange County SD Policy Manual

## *Hobble Restraint*

---

1. All incidents where resistance was met in the application of the Hobble shall be documented in accordance with Policy 300.6.

### Compliant Subjects

1. In incidents where the subject was compliant during the application of the Hobble and remained compliant while the Hobble was on, the use of the Hobble shall be documented promptly and accurately in an appropriate incident report.

### **306.8 TRAINING REQUIREMENT**

All deputies must read this policy and view the "Hobble Restraint Procedure" training video located on MY18, prior to deploying the Hobble Restraint Procedure in the field. This training video can be located by typing "Hobble" in the search bar, then selecting "Hobble Restraint Procedure" under Postings, Forms & Content.