

## LEG RESTRAINT DEVICES

<b>AUTHORITY:</b>	Section 835 California Penal Code Administrative Directive
<b>RESCINDS:</b>	Procedural Manual Item 1-4-122, dated 03/10/21 (Recertified)
<b>FORMS:</b>	<a href="#"><u>Special Incident Report</u></a>
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To establish guidelines, policy and procedures for the use of leg restraint devices in the transportation of individuals arrested by authorized Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs), Senior Deputy Probation Officers (SDPOs), Supervising Probation Officers (SPOs), and sworn administrators. For the purposes of this Procedural Manual Item (PMI), the acronym DPO will apply to all of the above noted classifications.

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. A DPO is authorized to use an approved departmentally issued leg restraint device to restrain the legs of a violent, resistive, or combative person during the course of detention, arrest, and/or transportation.
- B. Departmentally approved leg restraints are limited to the following:
  1. 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 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 belt is 90 inches. Manufactured by E.M.E Enterprises of Orange, California. This device severely limits leg mobility and temporarily immobilizes the supervised person.
  2. Leg Shackles: The leg shackles features include all steel construction, spun rivets, locking positions and push pin double lock capability. The chain effectively limits range of motion. Inner perimeter measures between 8" to 10¾". This device is more secure, similar to hand cuffs, but allows for more leg mobility than the EZ Leg Control Belt.
- C. Once applied, the DPO(s) transporting the arrestee is responsible for the supervision and safety of the individual in restraints. The arresting DPO shall assist the arrestee with standing, walking, and entering a custody vehicle.
- D. Only DPOs trained in the use of leg restraint devices shall use the devices. DPOs authorized to use the devices will receive hand-on training on the application of the leg restraint devices, review the PMI, and demonstrate the ability to apply the devices.
- E. As with any use of force option, leg restraints shall not be used in a punitive manner, nor upon an individual that appears to be under control.

- F. For use of force options, please refer to PMI 1-4-105 Use of Force – Field Services.
- G. DPOs shall take in to account any known medical conditions that would contraindicate the use of leg restraints.
  - 1. A youth known to be pregnant or in recovery after delivery shall not be restrained by the use of leg irons (shackles).
  - 2. A youth in labor, during delivery, or in recovery after delivery shall not be restrained by the ankles unless deemed necessary for the safety and security of the youth or others.
- H. Special consideration shall be given to special populations including juveniles, elderly, or visibly frail as unintended or increased injury could occur.
- I. An arrestee wearing leg restraints shall not be required to walk long distances or on challenging terrain (e.g. stairs, slopes). Wheelchairs are available at each area office to assist DPOs with arrestees requiring leg restraints.

## II. PROCEDURE – EZ Leg Control Belt

- A. The EZ leg control device is used when an individual is violent, resistive, or combative. The device is designed to prevent or reduce the likelihood of injury to the restrained person or others and to reduce or prevent the likelihood of property damage caused by the restrained person by preventing them from using their legs in a manner likely to result in injury or damage.
- B. The restraint will only be used to bind and immobilize a person's legs.
- C. The tailing length of the EZ Leg Control Belt strap shall never be attached to the arrestee's handcuffs to form a "hobble" device.
- D. The tailing length of the strap shall never be attached to a fixed item such as a pole, bench, etc.
- E. The leg restraint device shall only be applied once the individual has been handcuffed.
- F. If practical, the DPO (s) should notify a supervisor of the intent to apply the leg restraint. In all cases, a supervisor shall be notified as soon as practically possible after the application of the leg restraint.
- G. Two or more DPOs shall be present when the leg restraint device is applied.
- H. Officers may place combative subjects on their stomach to place the subject in the leg restraint. Once the leg restraint is properly applied, the suspect shall not be allowed to remain or lay on his/her stomach as this reduces the free flow of air to the lungs, and may result in positional asphyxiation.
- I. The DPO shall watch for signs of labored breathing. If the restrained subject complains of or displays signs of breathing distress (shortness of breath, sudden calmness, a change of facial color, etc.), medical attention should be summoned and provided immediately. The leg restraint should be temporarily removed if it is

safe to do so.

- J. The EZ Leg Control device is a temporary restraining device and is not escape proof. The leg band must be checked frequently for tightness and re-tightened or loosened as necessary until the device is removed. The device also includes a smaller Velcro strap which should be wrapped around the larger 2" strap between the subject's ankles.

### III. Leg Shackles – Procedure

- A. Smaller stature arrestees have been known to escape from the EZ Leg Control device. If this occurs, leg shackles shall be used.
- B. Leg shackles can be used if the DPO has a reasonable belief the arrestee is likely to be violent and/or attempt to escape during arrest, detention, or transport. DPOs should be aware that leg shackles do not prevent an arrestee from kicking (e.g. at officers, doors, or windows).
- C. The decision to use the EZ Leg Control Belt or leg shackles is based on the DPOs discretion and the device most appropriate to address the behavior demonstrated by the arrestee.

### IV. Transportation

- A. When transporting an arrestee who has been restrained with leg restraints, officers shall observe the following procedures:
  - 1. Once the leg restraint device has been applied, the DPO(s) shall assist the arrestee to their feet to prevent them from falling over. Proper lifting techniques should be used to prevent injury to the officers and arrestee. The arrestee should be allowed to move towards the custody vehicle under their own power, utilizing a slow shuffle to prevent accidental tripping/falling. DPOs shall use a firm grip to stabilize the arrestee when moving.
  - 2. Before carrying an uncooperative arrestee to or from a custody vehicle, the DPO(s) shall seek supervisory approval and additional assistance to do so.
  - 3. Restrained subjects shall be transported in a custody vehicle equipped with a cage partition. They shall be seated in an upright position, secured with a seatbelt and their feet flat on the floor in front of them.
  - 4. If utilizing the EZ Leg Restraint Control Belt, the long lead of the leg restraint will be placed outside the rear door closest to the arrestee and the door closed and secured. The attached metal clip will be moved to the position closest to the outside door panel and attached to the long lead through the appropriate loop. The remaining lead will be pulled inside the front door of the transportation vehicle to prevent it from dragging on the ground. The application of the leg restraint device shall only be in the manner indicated above.
  - 5. If injuries or other relevant issues prevent the transportation of an arrestee in a seated position, they shall be transported by ambulance/paramedic

unit, accompanied by a sworn officer.

6. Upon arrival at the custodial facility, the transporting DPO(s) shall inform custody staff the arrestee was subjected to being restrained by use of leg restraint device and whether or not they continue to be uncooperative.

**B. Documentation**

Anytime the leg restraint device is used, the circumstances requiring the use shall be documented in an SIR. The SIR shall include the following information:

1. The amount of time the subject was restrained, including beginning and ending time.
2. How the subject was transported and the position of the subject during transportation.
3. Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions.
4. A statement about the need to utilize the leg restraint device pursuant to Section I A, I B, and/or I C.
5. Any known or suspected drug/alcohol use or other medical problems.
6. The name of the supervisor notified of the leg restraint device use.

**C. Storage and Preparation for Re-Use**

After the use of a leg restraint device on an arrestee, the DPO(s) shall ensure that it is immediately ready for re-use and returned to storage in a manner that prevents them from becoming tangled or dirty. Leg control devices shall be kept in a centralized location at each area office or in each custody vehicle and subject to the control of the building manager.

1. The leg restraint device shall be inspected after each use for signs of wear or damage.
2. After use, the device shall be cleaned with a disinfect appropriate for killing multiple contaminants including COVID-19. The washed belt should be allowed to completely air dry before it is wrapped up and returned to storage.
3. The EZ Leg Restraint Control Belt should be tightly wrapped up in such a manner that the attached Velcro secures the belt in a wrapped manner. The detachable securing clip must remain attached to the device on the attached "D" ring to prevent its loss.

**REFERENCES:**

Procedures:	1-4-105	Use of Force – Field Services
	1-4-119	Field Officer Safety Information/Required Equipment for Field Activities
	2-1-002	Transportation Security

2-1-003	Pursuits/Arrests – Field
3-1-006	Handcuffs, Transportation Belts, Shackles, and Flex Cuffs

Policies:

D-5	Arrests/Temporary Detentions
D-6	Transportation of Probationers and Custody Transportation
D-7	Search and Seizure

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**APPROVED BY:**