



**HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**ADULT DETENTION DIVISION**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE # 21-03**

---

**Date:** 10/29/2021

**Subject:** Restraining pregnant female inmates; female inmates who have given birth in the preceding three days

**Directive:**

In accordance with MN statutes and ADD Policy #11-1400, deputy staff shall follow the directives listed below related to the use of restraints on any known pregnant female inmate or female who has given birth in the preceding three days:

For known pregnant female inmates:

**NO** restraint shall be used unless there is an individualized determination that restraints are reasonably necessary for the legitimate safety and security needs of the woman, correctional staff, other inmates, or the public. If restraints are determined to be necessary, the restraints must be the least restrictive available and the most reasonable under the circumstances.

**Section 1 - Within the facility/inside the jail:**

- Staff may not use waist restraints, or any other restraint that contacts/wraps around the inmate's stomach.
- Staff may not handcuff pregnant inmates behind their backs.
- Staff may not use leg irons/ankle shackles on a pregnant inmate.

**Section 2 - During transport (via HCSO transport vehicle or ambulance):**

- Staff may not use waist restraints, or any other restraint that contacts/wraps around the inmate's stomach.
- Staff may not handcuff pregnant inmates behind their backs.
- Staff may not use leg irons/ankle shackles on a pregnant inmate who is being transported in a HCSO squad/transport van.
- Staff may not use leg irons/ankle shackles to secure a pregnant inmate to a cot or gurney during ambulance transport.

**Section 3 - While guarding at a hospital:**

- Staff may not use waist restraints, or any other restraint that contacts/wraps around the inmate's stomach.
- Staff may not handcuff pregnant inmates behind their backs.
- Staff may not use leg irons/ankle shackles on a pregnant inmate who will be walking on her own.
- Staff may not use leg irons/ankle shackles to secure a pregnant inmate to the hospital bed.

In all cases listed above restraints will be applied in the least restrictive way available and most reasonable under the circumstances and must allow the inmate to protect herself and her fetus in the event of a forward fall.

For female inmates in labor or who have given birth in the preceding three days:

**NO restraint shall be used unless all of the following factors are met:**

- (1) there is a substantial flight risk or some other extraordinary medical or security circumstance that dictates restraints be used to ensure the safety and security of the woman, the staff of the correctional or medical facility, other inmates, or the public;
- (2) the representative has made an individualized determination that restraints are necessary to prevent escape or injury;
- (3) there is no objection from the treating medical care provider; and
- (4) the restraints used are the least restrictive type and are used in the least restrictive manner.

**Notification and Documentation Requirements:**

-Staff shall inform a supervisor if restraints are needed prior to their application, to obtain approval, or immediately after their application if prior notice was not practical.

-And-

The supervisor, in consultation with the medical care provider, will determine if the restraints are acceptable.

-And-

Any use of restraints shall be documented in the inmate's JMS behavior notes or incident reports, and, if applicable, on any paper hospital guard logs. This documentation shall specify, in detail, what justified the use of the restraints.

Captain(s) Issuing the Directive: Augusto