
 <p style="text-align: center;">ALLEGHENY COUNTY BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS</p>	APPLICABILITY: All Authorized Personnel	
	POLICY NUMBER: #208	EFFECTIVE: 5/28/08 REVISED: 4/28/20
	TITLE: Emergency Restraint Chair	
	AUTHORIZED BY: ORLANDO L. HARPER	
	SIGNATURE:	

POLICY

It is the policy of the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections to provide an efficient, safe and humane environment for employees and inmates during the admission process and at all times. Therefore, the Emergency Restraint Chair is available at appropriate time to accomplish these goals.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidance for correctional staff on the proper use of the Emergency Restraint Chair.

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

1. The Emergency Restraint Chair will never be used as a form of punishment. The Emergency Restraint Chair is always to be used to prevent harm to employees of the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections, members of others agencies, civilians, and inmates.
2. The use of the Emergency Restraint Chair will always be used under the direction of an Operations Supervisor (Sergeant or above), Deputy Warden(s) or Warden.
3. The Use of the Emergency Restraint Chair will be used to prevent violent, uncontrollable behaviors, or negative interactions between persons in the custody of the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections including arrestees who have not yet been arraigned or processed.
4. The Emergency Restraint Chair may be used to prevent an individual from self-injury, injury to others, or serious property damage when other techniques have been ineffective in assisting the individual/inmate in controlling themselves.

5. The Emergency Restraint Chair may be used as a means of moving a combative inmate safely from one section of the facility to another when no other alternatives are available.
6. A supervisor will make a field assessment of an individual's behavior or condition and from that assessment determine if the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair is appropriate. The purpose of the assessment is to weigh the probability of injury to employees or the inmate if the Emergency Restraint Chair is not utilized. The supervisor will take into consideration the inmate or detainee's immediate behavior (violent/actively combative will result in immediate placement in the Chair), as well as condition (intoxication which hinders an individual's ability to stand on their own will also result in placement in the Chair).
7. An inmate or detainee who declares suicidal ideations or actions and refuses placement into a Suicide Gown will be placed in the Chair.
8. If and when an individual/inmate refuses to answer the medical admission questions the individual/inmate will automatically be considered a potential high suicidal risk. That individual's behavior would then determine if they are willing to be placed into a suicide gown or go directly into the Emergency Restraint Chair for their own safety.
9. Every instance of the Emergency Restraint Chair's use will be recorded in accordance with the Use of Force Policy (which requires a briefing stating why the Chair is being utilized), except when a briefing will cause a delay which will likely result in injury to (an) employee(s) or the inmate/detainee. In such cases the recording will be started as soon as reasonably practical.
10. Due to dangers associated with the use of mechanical restraints at the same time the chair's fabric restraints are utilized, mechanical restraints should only be utilized in conjunction with the chair's restraints in the event that an inmate attempts, or does escape, from the chair. As with the use of the chair procedures, medical staff will check the inmate after both restraints are applied to the inmate.
11. Once an inmate is secured in the Restraint Chair, Healthcare Personnel shall be responsible for checking the restraints for tightness.
12. Visual checks on inmates placed in the restraint chair must occur every 15 minutes. Time checks are to be documented on the restraint chair form.
13. An inmate may only be in the Emergency Restraint Chair for 8 hours. Notification must be made to the Duty Officer if an inmate requires to be in the restraint chair

for a period longer than 8 hours. Only the warden or designee can authorize an inmate to be in the restraint chair for over 8 hours.

14. In the event that an inmate's behavior continues to be resistant the inmate will remain in the Restraint Chair and any attempt to release him/her will be digitally recorded to document the negative behavior.
15. The inmate will be afforded the opportunity to have their limbs exercised every two hours. This will be documented on the Restraint Chair Form. Healthcare Staff is responsible to check for tightness when the restraints are reapplied.
16. Once the inmate is released from the Restraint Chair, the proper form will indicate the release with all verified periods of exercise and medical checks.
17. Every instance of the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair will require reporting in accordance with the Use of Force Policy.
18. Only Correctional Staff trained in the use of the restraint chair will place an individual in it. A minimum of three (3) correctional officers and a supervisor will be present to assist in the placement of an individual in the restraint chair. Supervisors will provide verbal direction to officers securing the inmate in the restraint chair.
19. Correctional staff will visually inspect the chair to ensure that all equipment and accessories are in proper working order.
20. The individual placed in the restraint chair shall be under constant observation while in the restraint chair and monitored directly or by the CCTV camera system
21. A supervisor or staff member will be tasked with monitoring the individual/inmate in the restraint chair at least every hour by:
 - a. Speaking with the individual.
 - b. Checking the restraints for comfort and security.
 - c. Developing an appropriate plan for release.
 - d. Checking that all appropriate forms have been filled out in a timely manner.
22. The use of the Emergency Restraint Chair must be documented on the Restraint Chair Form and the form shall indicate the date and time of each check and period of exercise.