

## **6.12—HANDCUFFING**

### **Background**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the procedural guidelines for handling situations where School Security Officers may handcuff juveniles or adults in accordance with existing LRSD policies and Arkansas State law. The intent of the Little Rock School Security Department is to have a reasonable policy which commits to ensuring the safety of its members, students, staff, and the Little Rock School District school community.

Upon completing Department- approved training, School Security Officers shall carry handcuffs on their person in the proper case. School Security Officers shall have a corresponding handcuff key available at all times when carrying handcuffs. The Department will provide School Security Officers with Department- approved handcuffs, case, and key.

### **Handcuffing Discretion and Concerns**

Although recommended for many situations, handcuffing is a discretionary procedure and not an absolute rule of the Department. When deciding whether to handcuff a juvenile or adult on LRSD property, the SSO should carefully balance officer safety concerns with factors including, but not limited to the following:

1. The circumstances leading to the detention.
2. The attitude or behavior of the person being detained.
3. The age, size, sex, mental and physical health of the person being detained .
4. Whether the person being detained by the SSO has any hearing or speaking disabilities. These persons should be given consideration to having the handcuffs applied to the front in order to allow for the use of sign language or writing notes.
5. Whether the detained or arrested person has any other apparent disability.

It is not the intent of the Department to dissuade an SSO from handcuffing persons they believe warrant that degree of restraint, nor is it the intent of this policy to create an atmosphere that in order to avoid personal risk, an SSO should handcuff all persons regardless of the circumstances. Handcuffs should be removed as soon as it is practically safe to do so.

### **JUVENILE HANDCUFFING**

An SSO may handcuff a juvenile 10 years of age or older when the act committed is believed to be of a violent nature. A juvenile 10 years of age or older may also be handcuffed when:

1. The juvenile has a desire to injure themselves, the SSO or others.
2. To prevent the juvenile from injuring themselves, the SSO or others.
3. To restrain a violent juvenile.
4. To prevent the destruction of property.
5. To prevent the escape of an unknown juvenile who is under arrest.

## **ADULT HANDCUFFING**

An SSO may handcuff an adult when the act committed is believed to be violent in nature. An adult may also be handcuffed when:

1. The adult has a desire to injure themselves, the SSO or others.
2. To prevent the adult from injuring themselves, the SSO or others.
3. To restrain a violent adult.
4. To prevent the destruction of property.

## **PROPER APPLICATION OF HANDCUFFS**

SSOs shall only use Department-approved handcuffing techniques in the routine application of said handcuffs. The approved handcuffing technique is outlined in the “SSO Handcuffing Procedure Manual”, and may be supplemented by techniques which have been or will be taught by the Department’s Training Division.

In those situations, where the subject is actively resisting, the handcuffs should be applied as quickly as possible using the most convenient method. However, once it is practical to do so, the SSO must ensure that the handcuffs have been properly applied and check for tightness and double lock activation.

## **Reporting**

Anytime handcuffs are utilized an official district incident report shall be completed, whether or not an actual crime report was generated by LRPD or any other law enforcement agency. All incident reports shall be filled out completely and accurately, with entries in all required fields. Generally, incident reports should be submitted on the same day of the incident; however, they shall be submitted to the SSO Supervisor as soon as it is reasonably practical to do so, or the next official business day if the incident occurred on a weekend day.

Date Adopted:

Last Revised: