

# Safety Cell Use

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Title: **Safety Cell Use** MADF Version 6/5/2017

## 1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

Safety cells shall be used to hold only those arrestees/inmates who display behavior which results in the destruction of property or demonstrates an intent to cause physical harm to self or others. Other tools, such as safety clothing garments, restraints, or transport hoods, may be used in conjunction with safety cells to protect against property damage or physical harm pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

<b>Clothing Exchange</b>	An arrestee/inmate's personal clothing or jail issued clothing may be exchanged for a safety clothing garment, which is specifically designed to provide for an inmate's safety while in a safety cell.
<b>Restraints or Restraint Equipment</b>	Any device which immobilizes a person's extremities and/or prevents a person from being ambulatory.
<b>Safety Cell</b>	Specially designed cells described in Title 24, Part II, Section 1231.2.5. There are three safety cells located in the booking area and two safety cells in the Mental Health Module.

**Safety  
Garment/Blanket**

Special clothing garments or blankets designed to prevent a person from causing harm to themselves while at the same time providing personal comfort and privacy.

**Transport Hood**

A disposable piece of material that is placed over an arrestee/inmate's head to prevent his spit, blood, and/or nasal fluids from coming into contact with staff or others (also known as a "spitter's mask").

**3.0 MANDATES**

*Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003*

*Department of Justice National PREA Standard 28 CFR 115.15*

*851.5 P.C.*

*Title 15 Standards: 1052, 1055, 1219*

*Title 24 Part 2, Section 1231.2.5*

*IMQ Standards: 316*

**4.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. **Purpose of Safety Cells.** The purpose of safety cells shall be to protect the arrestee/inmate and others from harm, and prevent property damage. In no case shall a safety cell be used for punishment or as a substitute for treatment.
- B. **Temporary Measure.** Arrestee/inmate placements in safety cells are considered temporary, and shall last only as long as necessary to deescalate behaviors and ensure the arrestee/inmate is safe for transfer to a less restrictive setting without causing harm or damage.
- C. **Clothing Exchange for Safety Purposes.** Placement in a safety cell requires an arrestee/inmate, for their own safety, to exchange their clothing for jail clothing and/or a safety garment/blanket. An inmate already in jail clothing will be issued new jail clothing and/or a safety garment/blanket. An arrestee/inmate will not be placed into a safety cell without one of the following clothing options:
  - 1. Newly exchanged jail issued clothing;
  - 2. A jail issued safety garment.
- D. **Applicability of Strip Search Policy.** A clothing exchange for purposes of this policy shall not be performed with the intent to search for contraband (i.e., a strip search). Should Correctional Staff reasonably suspect that an arrestee/inmate to be placed in a safety cell may be concealing weapons or dangerous contraband, the requirements of the strip search policy shall apply (Refer to Searches- Pat and Strip).
- E. **Safety Cell View Ports.** The view ports of all safety cells shall remain open to enable optimal observation unless a Mental Health Staff member has a clinical reason why the

view port should be closed. A Correctional Sergeant or above may also authorize a view port to be closed.

1. If a Mental Health Staff member or Sergeant has a reason why the view port should be closed, the determination and specific reason must be documented in an incident report and the clinical reason articulated in the medical record of the inmate. This information shall also be documented on the Inmate Observation Record Form.

#### **4.1 PRE-REQUISITES FOR SAFETY CELL PLACEMENTS**

A. **Safety Cell Placements.** Arrestees/inmates may be placed in a safety cell for any of the following non-exclusive reasons:

1. The arrestee/inmate's behavior jeopardizes the physical well-being or safety of himself or others, or has resulted in property destruction;
2. The arrestee/inmate's statements and/or behavior indicate that he is suicidal or reveals an intent to cause physical harm to himself; or
3. The arrestee/inmate's statements and/or behavior reveal an intent to cause physical harm to others.

B. **Safety Cell Placement Recommendations, Authorization and Approval.** All safety cell placements shall be processed and approved as follows:

1. Correctional, Mental Health or Medical Staff may recommend to a Sergeant that an inmate be placed into a safety cell.
2. The Facility Manager or Watch Commander must approve all safety cell placements and sign the Inmate Observation Record form, as is required.
3. In the immediate absence of a Custody Manager, a Sergeant may approve a safety cell placement. However, as soon as possible the Facility Manager or Watch Commander will review and approve the placement.

#### **4.2 CLOTHING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFETY PURPOSES**

A. Mental Health Staff shall make a clinical recommendation whether an arrestee/inmate placed in a safety cell for personal safety purposes, should be issued jail clothing or a safety garment in exchange for his/her clothing. A safety blanket may also be authorized along with the safety garment.

1. No matter what clothing option is decided upon, all inmates placed into a safety cell shall be thoroughly pat searched before being placed into the cell.

B. Clothing recommendations must be approved by the Correctional Sergeant and documented on the Inmate Observation Record form. Additionally, any articulable

facts used in making a clothing recommendation must be documented in the medical record of the inmate and in the body of the incident report.

- C. A clinical determination will be made by Mental Health Staff during follow-up reviews with each arrestee/inmate in a safety cell on whether additional articles of clothing can be given to the arrestee/inmate based on their risk of self-harm.

## 5.0 PROCEDURES

### 5.1 SAFETY CELL PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

- A. **Initial Placement Procedures.** The following procedures apply when initially placing an arrestee/inmate in a safety cell.

- 1. **Clothing Exchange for Safety Purposes.** Upon determining that an arrestee/inmate to be placed in a safety cell should exchange clothes for safety purposes, Correctional Staff shall comply with the following.
  - a. The arrestee/inmate shall be escorted to a safety cell, and shall be permitted to exchange clothing outside the purview of any person not participating in the clothing exchange. Persons who may participate in the clothing exchange include those Correctional Staff, Mental Health Staff and/or Medical Staff whose official duties require them to be present at the time of the clothing exchange, including Deputies in training or conducting training.
  - b. If an arrestee/inmate is unwilling or unable to cooperate with a clothing exchange (e.g., due to extreme intoxication or combative actions), Correctional Staff may exchange the arrestee/inmate's clothing using only that force which is reasonably necessary to effectuate the exchange. (Refer to: [Use of Force](#))
  - c. Any person conducting or otherwise present during a clothing exchange must be of the same sex as the arrestee/inmate being placed in the safety cell, except for physicians, licensed medical personnel, or if exigent circumstances require otherwise.
    - i. If same-gender staff are not available to assist in a clothing exchange, other options should be considered in lieu of the exchange to protect the safety of the person, such as: use of the restraint chair, placement in the safety cell with clothing and increased observation rounds, placing the inmate in the safety cell in waist restraints, and the utilization of an observation cell.
    - ii. In the event exigent circumstances require that a person of the opposite sex participate in a clothing exchange, all

reasonable measures shall be taken to prevent the person of the opposite sex from viewing the body cavities, breasts, buttocks, or genitalia of the arrestee/inmate. Any cross gender viewing must be documented in an incident report. (Refer to: [Prison Rape Elimination Act \(PREA\)](#))

d. Any forcible clothing exchange shall also be detailed in an incident report.

2. **Inmate Observation Record.** Upon placing an arrestee/inmate in a safety cell, the Correctional Supervisor must document the placement on the required Inmate Observation Record form. The Inmate Observation Record form shall be posted on the occupied safety cells, and shall be completed in their entirety, regardless of the reason for the placement.
3. **Close Monitoring Required.** Correctional Staff shall closely monitor any arrestee/inmate placed in a safety cell, and shall work with Medical Staff to ensure the arrestee/inmate receives adequate fluids and nutrition. Such information shall be documented on the Inmate Observation Record. Correctional Deputies shall also work with Mental Health Staff to encourage the arrestee/inmate in maintaining an appropriate level of hygiene, to include showering, if deemed necessary.

B. **Initial Medical and Mental Health Clearance.** Arrestees/inmates placed in safety cells must be initially cleared by Medical and Mental Health Staff, as follows:

1. **Medical Clearance.** Medical Staff shall medically clear arrestees/inmates to be placed in safety cells as close to the time of placement as reasonably possible, but in any event no later than 1 hour of placement.
2. **Mental Health Clearance.** Mental Health Staff shall provide an opinion on the placement **and retention** as close to the time of placement as reasonably possible, but in any event no later than 12 hours of placement.

C. **Continued Placement Review and Evaluation Procedures.** It shall be the responsibility of the Booking Sergeant to ensure that all required rounds, to include Medical and Mental Health checks, are completed for any arrestee/inmate placed in a safety cell. The Booking Sergeant will review the placement and the Inmate Observation Record **no more than four hours between reviews.**

1. **Review by Watch Commander.** The Watch Commander shall obtain a clinical opinion/consultation from Mental Health Staff to determine whether an inmate/arrestee should remain in a safety cell at least once every 4 hours. The reviews shall be documented on the Inmate Observation Record form. When the Booking Sergeant is the acting Watch Commander, he shall also assume the Watch Commander's duties, in addition to his own.

2. **Visual Observation by Correctional Staff.** Intermittent direct visual observation rounds of inmates held in safety cells shall be completed at least two times every 30 minutes, with rounds being completed at least 10 minutes apart. All required information shall be recorded on the Inmate Observation Record form.
  - a. Intoxicated inmates placed in Safety cells shall have intermittent direct observation rounds completed at least two times every 30 minutes, with rounds being completed at least 10 minutes apart, and;
    - i. Each round shall verify their levels of consciousness and ability to respond to verbal stimuli.
    - ii. If unable to obtain a verbal response to stimulation, Staff must enter the cell and attempt to rouse the inmate to assess their levels of consciousness. A second Deputy shall be called to assist.
    - iii. A failure to obtain a verbal response after attempting to rouse the inmate, any deteriorating condition or life-threatening situation shall be immediately referred to Medical Staff.
    - iv. If a required round is delayed for any reason, staff will document the delay on the Inmate Observation Record form and notify the Booking Sergeant.
3. **Review by Mental Health Staff.** The Booking Sergeant will ensure that Mental Health Staff review and evaluate each arrestee/inmate placed in a Safety Cell at least once every 4 hours, or more frequently if necessary. The reviews shall be documented on the Inmate Observation Record form.
  1. These reviews shall include a clinical determination on whether additional items of clothing can be given to the arrestee/inmate based on their risk of self-harm.
4. **Review by Medical Staff.** The Booking Sergeant will ensure that Medical Staff review each inmate/arrestee placed in a safety cell at least once every 4 hours, and shall medically clear an inmate for continued retention at least every 24 hours. The reviews shall be documented on the Inmate Observation Record form.

## **5.2 USE OF RESTRAINTS, RESTRAINT CHAIR, AND TRANSPORT HOOD**

- A. **Use of Restraints in Safety Cell.** An arrestee/inmate may be placed in restraints in a safety cell only when a Correctional Supervisor has determined that restraints are necessary to prevent the arrestee/inmate from harming himself or others (Refer to: [Restraint Equipment - Use and Locations and Restraint Chair Use](#)).
1. **Review Required.** An arrestee/inmate who is placed in restraints while in a safety cell shall be reviewed as follows:
    - a. Correctional Staff shall conduct intermittent direct visual observation rounds at least two times every 30 minutes, with rounds being completed at least 10-minutes apart, and document the observation on the Inmate Observation Record;
    - b. A Correctional Supervisor shall review the placement at least once every hour;
    - c. The Watch Commander shall review the placement at least once every two hours; and
    - d. Medical Staff shall review the placement at least once every two hours.
  2. **Removal of Restraints.** Restraints shall be removed when the risk that an arrestee/inmate may harm himself or others has become minimal, or when the restraints threaten the medical health of the arrestee/inmate.
- B. **Use of Restraint Chair.** Should an arrestee/inmate placed in a safety cell become violent or combative, he may be placed in a restraint chair (Refer to: [Restraint Chair Use](#)).
- C. **Use of Transport Hoods.** Correctional Staff may use transport hoods on arrestees/inmates before or during placement in a safety cell, in order to prevent exposure to bodily fluids (Refer to: [Transport Hood Use](#)).

### 5.3 REMOVAL FROM SAFETY CELL

- A. **Requirement to Remove from Safety Cell.** An arrestee/inmate shall be removed from a safety cell when it appears that he is no longer a threat to himself or others, and will not damage property.
- B. **Removal Upon Approval by Requesting Authority.** Removal of an arrestee/inmate shall be made only at the direction or upon the approval of the authority requesting the placement (i.e., Mental Health Staff, Medical Staff, or Correctional Staff).
1. **Contact Requesting Authority.** Correctional Staff shall contact the requesting authority when staff believe an arrestee/inmate should be removed from a safety cell, and request an evaluation of the arrestee/inmate to determine if removal from the safety cell is appropriate.

2. **Correctional Staff Authority.** All removals must be authorized by the Correctional Supervisor or Watch Commander.
- C. **Dress In.** If the arrestee/inmate was required to exchange clothing for safety purposes, the arrestee/inmate shall be permitted to dress in clothes in a private area, outside the purview of others.
- D. **Medical Review.** A Medical Staff Member will examine the arrestee/inmate once he has been removed from the safety cell.
- E. **Documentation Regarding Removal.** The Booking Sergeant shall ensure that all necessary documentation is completed when an arrestee/inmate is removed from a safety cell, including the Inmate Observation Record form and a supplemental report regarding the safety cell removal.

## **5.4 COURT APPEARANCES**

- A. The decision to send an inmate to court who is in a safety cell shall be carefully evaluated by the Sergeant after consulting with mental health and/or medical staff. The decision will be based on the totality of the inmate's current condition and/or behavior and the safety and security of everyone involved.
- B. If it is decided an inmate will not be sent to his court appearance the Sergeant will ensure the appropriate notifications are made to the Court, and to the Bailiffs. If it is decided the inmate will attend his court appearance the Sergeant will determine if it is appropriate to use restraints and the number of Deputies necessary to complete the transport, and will ensure the Bailiffs are properly briefed on the situation. A supplemental incident report of the incident shall be completed whether or not an inmate is sent to court.
- C. Upon return from court, the inmate shall be evaluated for the continued risk of self-harm and need for placement back into the safety cell. This information will be documented in a supplemental report to the original placement.

## **6.0 REVISION HISTORY**

Version 15.05.06 - Revised 05/16/06  
Version 16.09.08 - Revised 09/2008  
Version 17.11.09 - Revised 11/2009  
Version 18.03.10 - Revised 03/17/2010  
Version 19.12.10 - Revised 12/2010  
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