

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: USE OF SAFETY CELLS

C-100

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
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REFERENCE: Title 15, Section 1055, C.C.R., DBPPM C-300, C-350

POLICY

The Detentions Bureau maintains safety cells in order to provide a safe location to temporarily hold incarcerated people who display behavior that could result in the destruction of cell furnishings or reveal intent to cause physical harm to themselves or others. The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent guidelines regarding the circumstances under which an incarcerated person may be placed into a safety cell and the safeguards that must be adhered to while an incarcerated person is in a safety cell.

DIRECTIVE #1

The use of safety cells shall be limited to the holding of incarcerated people who display behavior that results in the destruction of cell furnishings or reveals intent to cause physical harm to themselves or others. Only one (1) incarcerated person will be held in a single safety cell at a time.

DIRECTIVE #2

If a facility has more than one (1) incarcerated person displaying behavior that warrants placement in a safety cell, the Shift Supervisor will contact other facilities equipped with a safety cell (Inmate Reception Center, Pre-Trial, and/or Justice) to determine if another safety cell is available and arrange for transportation of the second incarcerated person to that facility.

DIRECTIVE #3

Safety cells may be used as temporary suicide watch housing if no suicide watch cells are available. If an incarcerated person is placed in a safety cell for the purposes of suicide watch, all safety cell procedures, as well as suicide watch procedures will be followed for the duration of the placement. Placement of incarcerated people in a safety cell for temporary suicide watch housing will not exceed 72 hours.

DIRECTIVE #4

In no case shall a safety cell be used for punishment or as a substitute for treatment.

Procedure A: Placement in the Safety Cell

Deputies will obtain the approval of the Section Manager or the Shift Supervisor prior to placing an incarcerated person in a safety cell. If such a delay would expose the incarcerated person or others to additional danger, then the incarcerated person may be placed in a safety cell prior to obtaining approval. In such cases, the approval of the Section Manager or Shift Supervisor will be obtained as soon as possible after placement.

Deputies placing an incarcerated person in the safety cell will:

- Inspect the safety cell for hazardous items or conditions prior to placing the incarcerated person in the cell;
- Conduct a private visual body cavity search of the incarcerated person prior to placement in the safety cell. The search will be conducted by a deputy of the same sex;
 - A visual body cavity search may not be conducted if the Shift Supervisor reasonably believes that force would have to be used to carry out the search or if the visual body cavity search is deemed unnecessary (e.g., the incarcerated person is already on suicide watch). Any justification for not completing the visual body cavity search shall be documented in the incident report.
- Provide the incarcerated person with appropriate clothing as determined by the Shift Supervisor;
- Notify medical staff immediately upon placing an incarcerated person in a safety cell to have the incarcerated person medically cleared as soon as possible, including a medical check of any restraints;
- Notify Correctional Behavioral Health (CBH) of the placement in the safety cell as soon as possible;
- Complete a Jail Management System (JMS) incident describing the incarcerated person's behavior leading up to placement in the safety cell.

Deputies assigned to monitor the safety cell will:

- Conduct a direct visual observation of the incarcerated person at random intervals, at least twice every thirty (30) minutes, not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes between checks.
- Offer the incarcerated person an eight-ounce cup of water once every two (2) hours. The offer of water, and whether or not it was consumed, will be documented on the Incarcerated person Observation Log;
- Document all observations on an Incarcerated person Observation Log maintained in accordance with Section C-350 of this manual.

The Shift Supervisor will:

- Ensure that all appropriate documentation is completed including:
 - A JMS incident describing the incarcerated person's behavior leading up to placement in the safety cell;
 - All documentation required by DPPM F-200 if force is used.
- Review continued retention of an incarcerated person in a safety cell every four (4) hours;
- Ensure that the incarcerated person is removed from the safety cell:
 - As soon as it is safe to do so;
 - When the incarcerated person's behavior no longer warrants the use of the safety cell.
- Ensure that a JMS incident supplemental report is generated indicating:
 - Circumstances of the continued retention or removal;
 - Shift Supervisor's approval of the continued retention or removal;
 - Disposition of the incarcerated person if removed (e.g., rehoused, transported to KM).
- Document the continued retention or removal on the Incarcerated person Observation Log as detailed in Section C-350 of this manual.

Incarcerated people confined in a safety cell will be allowed to retain appropriate clothing, as determined by the Shift Supervisor. At a minimum, incarcerated people will be provided a safety smock or paper pants and a paper shirt. These clothing minimums shall apply unless there is reason to believe that such clothing would pose a risk to the incarcerated person's safety or facility security. These facts, as well as what type of clothing the incarcerated person is wearing while in the safety cell shall be included in the JMS incident.

Procedure B: Medical Assessment

Upon notification of an incarcerated person being placed in the safety cell, facility medical staff will conduct a medical assessment of the incarcerated person as soon as possible, but in no circumstance more than thirty (30) minutes from the time of the notification.

Further medical and mental health opinions on placement and retention shall be secured within twelve (12) hours of placement in the cell. A medical opinion on continued retention in the cell will be secured every twenty-four (24) hours thereafter. If the mental health staff is not available within the initial twelve (12) hour time frame, the incarcerated person shall be transported to Kern Medical for evaluation.

Procedure C: Meals

An incarcerated person confined in a safety cell will be provided with three (3) meals per day, each including a beverage.

If possible, the meals and beverages provided should be the same as those provided to the general incarcerated person population. Hot meals served to an incarcerated person in a safety cell will be served on a Styrofoam tray. An incarcerated person in a safety cell may be provided with a sack lunch in lieu of their regular meal if deemed necessary for the safety of the incarcerated person. The Shift Supervisor, medical staff, or CBH staff may make this determination. If a sack lunch is provided, the plastic bag will be removed before the contents are provided to the incarcerated person. The serving of meals, and the approximate percentage of the meal that was consumed by the incarcerated person, shall be documented on the Incarcerated person Observation Log.

Procedure D: Restraints

Incarcerated people housed in a safety cell may be restrained if deemed necessary by the Shift Supervisor. The use of restraints and manner of use will be documented in the JMS incident and on the Incarcerated person Observation Log. If restraints are used, the provisions of Section C-300 of this manual will apply. The use of restraints will be based on the need to control an incarcerated person's self-destructive behavior in a manner not provided for by the use of the safety cell. Incarcerated person behavior that would indicate a need to restrain an incarcerated person in a safety cell would include, but not be limited to:

- Hitting their head on the cell walls, door, or floor.
- Biting or injuring themselves.
- Aggravating wounds or removing sutures.
- Smearing feces or other bodily fluids on the cell or themselves.

Incarcerated person restraints shall not be fastened in any way to the floor grate in the safety cell.