



## CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order # 89-30

Manual Code: 1.13

Section: **OPERATIONS**

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Authorized Signature:

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### Safety Restraining Devices

#### Purpose

There is significant evidence that the use of safety belts has a significant effect in reducing the number of deaths and the severity of injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes and assisting officers in maintaining proper control of their vehicles in pursuit and/or emergency high speed operations. In addition, studies have shown that on-duty police officers are involved in almost four (4) times the number of crashes as members of the general public per million miles driven.

#### Policy

To reduce the possibility of death or injury, as a result of crashes involving drivers and passengers in department vehicles, the following rules and procedures shall be followed by all members of the Concord Police Department involved in the operation of department vehicles.

#### Procedures [41.3.3]

All Department personnel, except where specifically exempted, shall use the safety belt restraining system while operating or riding as a passenger in a department vehicle while the vehicle is in motion. This policy shall not apply to persons occupying a seating position that is not equipped with a safety belt assembly or any employee or other person possessing a written indication from a physician or the Chief of Police that for medical or physical reasons the employee or other person is unable to use the safety belt system.

Unless a replacement vehicle is unavailable, no person shall operate or be a passenger in the front seat of a department vehicle in which the seat belt mechanism for the seating position occupied by that person is inoperable.

The requirements of this General Order apply to all persons transported as prisoners and mentally or physically ill or injured persons transported in department vehicles when one off three exceptions to Chapter 111C requirements is present. These exceptions are explained below.

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## Safety Restraining Devices, Continued

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### **Voluntary Transportation**

A sick or injured person may voluntarily choose to be transported to a hospital in a vehicle, which is not an ambulance. Therefore, in cases of medical emergency where there is no ambulance available or when the public safety is threatened; a sick or injured person may be transported to the hospital in a police vehicle. In such cases, the Shift Supervisor will determine if transportation should be provided.

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### **Major Catastrophe**

In the case of a major catastrophe, should the number of certified ambulances capable of emergency dispatch in the locality of the catastrophe be deemed insufficient to render the required emergency medical transportation, the services of department vehicles may be used to render emergency medical transportation.

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### **Mentally Ill Persons**

Unless such persons cannot be effectively transported by the Emergency Medical Technicians due to violent behavior and/or the likelihood that serious bodily harm will result to them or the public, they will not be transported in department vehicles. In cases where they cannot be transported by the Emergency Medical Technicians, mentally ill persons may be transported by department personnel. In such cases, the Shift Supervisor shall be advised and make the determination as to whether transportation shall be provided.

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### **Exceptions**

There are circumstances in which the use of safety belt restraining systems may hamper efficient conduct of police functions. Specific situations may arise when it is impractical or unsafe (i.e., violent subjects) to use safety belt restraint systems. In such cases, Supervisors shall be made aware of the circumstances involved and the officer shall note the lack of safety belt restraint use in their written report. The exceptions to this policy include situations in which the efficiency of operations outweighs the safety benefit.

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### **Compliance Sticker**

A decal indicating that use of safety belt restraining devices is mandatory shall be affixed to the dashboard of all departmental vehicles.

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