

# General Order

## Houston Police Department



ISSUE DATE:

April 3, 2017

NO.

500-20

REFERENCE: Supersedes all prior conflicting Circulars and Directives, and General Order 500-20, dated August 11, 2010

**SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, SUSPECTS, AND OTHER CITIZENS**

### POLICY

Employees of the Houston Police Department shall treat all prisoners, suspects, and citizens in a humane and lawful manner. This General Order applies to all employees.

### **1 GUIDELINES**

Employees shall avoid all unnecessary physical contact with all prisoners, suspects, and other citizens. Unnecessary contact may include, but is not limited to, pushing, shoving, dragging, punching, or kicking.

Employees shall not place handcuffs on prisoners tighter than is necessary to ensure the prisoner does not remove the handcuffs. Tightening the handcuffs to the point circulation is impaired is prohibited. Officers shall double lock the handcuffs to ensure that they are not inadvertently tightened during transport.

### **2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

All employees are reminded of their duty to ensure the safety of all suspects, prisoners, and citizens. Mandatory reporting requirements are outlined in General Order 200-03, **Investigation of Employee Misconduct**, regarding the mistreatment of prisoners, suspects, or citizens. Failure to report even minor mistreatment of any person shall result in disciplinary action.

Supervisors who witness mistreatment or are present at the scene where mistreatment is occurring or is alleged are responsible for ensuring the safety of suspects, prisoners, and citizens. Supervisors are also responsible for ensuring that all necessary department notifications are made, incident reports are generated, and forms are completed.

### **3 RELATED GENERAL ORDERS**

200-03, Investigation of Employee Misconduct  
200-08, Conduct and Authority  
300-32, Processing Complaints and Employee Issues  
500-01, Effecting Arrests and Searches  
500-02, Handling and Transporting Prisoners and Other Persons  
600-17, Response to Resistance

  
Art Acevedo  
Chief of Police