

**MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
CUSTODY DIVISION POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

**CHAPTER 2 - BOOKING
CUS - 2 - 18
PAGE 1 OF 3**

April 20, 2018

SAFETY CELL USE

POLICY

Deputies shall use safety cells to control and protect inmates and arrestees whose behavior jeopardizes themselves, custody staff, other inmates, and/or security of the jail facility. At no time will the safety cell be used as a form of discipline or punishment, nor will there be more than one inmate in the safety at a time.

DEFINITION:

SAFETY CELL: A padded secure room where one person is placed when their behavior jeopardizes themselves, custody staff, other inmates, or the security of the facility. A person is placed in the cell in a controlled position and searched. Deputies will remove any items, which could be used to harm the inmate or staff, i.e. Belts, eyeglasses, shoes, shoelaces, pens, pencils, etc.

SAFETY CELL OBSERVATION REPORT: Form used to document the circumstances surrounding the need for safety cell placement and subsequent inmate supervision. Becomes part of an inmate's permanent record.

MECHANICAL RESTRAINTS: Handcuffs, leg irons, belly chains.

PROCEDURE

The safety cells in booking and the Pods will only be utilized to temporarily hold inmates and arrestees who fall under the following conditions:

1. Inmate displays behavior, which results in the damage/destruction of county jail property.
2. Inmate presents an immediate danger to themselves or others.
3. Inmate makes verbal threats to harm themselves.
4. Inmate makes overt attempts to assault staff or other inmates, or cause themselves harm.

When an inmate or arrestee is placed in the safety cell the Booking or Housing Sergeant, depending on the placement location, shall be immediately notified and will authorize continued use. Medical staff will be immediately notified whenever an inmate is placed into the safety cell. Mental Health staff shall also be immediately notified and advised whether the placement is suicidal or behavioral in nature. Direct visual observation is conducted at least twice every thirty minutes. The time of observation will be noted on the Safety Cell Observation Report with the Deputy's badge number.

Arrestees who have arrived at the facility in restraints and are placed in the safety cell will have the restraints removed as soon as practical and safe for staff.

Approval and authorization to retain a person in mechanical restraints in the safety cell will be obtained from the Operations Lieutenant or in the absence of a Jail Command Officer, the Watch Commander. Custody staff will also confer with medical and or mental health staff when restraints are being used on any person in the safety cell. Inmates who require continued retention in restraints in the safety cell shall be reviewed by a Sergeant every hour. Any inmate subjected to restraints in a safety cell for eight hours shall be taken to a medical facility for further evaluation.

Unrestrained Inmates who require continued retention in the safety cell shall be reviewed a minimum of every four hours by a Sergeant. The reviewing Sergeant will write their comments on the Safety Cell Observation Report and sign the report. A medical assessment shall be completed within a maximum of twelve hours of placement in the safety cell. The medical personnel will log the time of their assessment on the Safety Cell Observation Log.

The inmate shall be cleared medically for continued retention every twelve hours thereafter. The medical personnel will log their comments on the Safety Cell Observation Report.

A mental health opinion/consultation on placement and retention shall be secured within twelve hours of placement in a safety cell. Mental health personnel will write their comments on the Safety Cell Observation Report. If mental health personnel are not on duty within the jail, the Booking Sergeant will contact the Jail Mental Health Supervisor and arrange for the twelve-hour assessment and evaluation of the inmate to take place. Mental health should evaluate the inmate prior to release from the safety cell whenever the placement was due to threats of suicide or harming themselves.

Inmates in the safety cell will be offered the opportunity to eat during normal meal hours. Water will be offered at least every two hours and is given to the inmate upon request. All food will be finger foods served on paper plates. Water will be offered in a paper cup. Deputies will note on the Safety Cell Observation Report when food and water was offered or the reason for denial. Deputies will note if the inmate consumed the food or water. Inmates will be given the opportunity to wash their hands prior to eating or drinking. A damp paper towel will be given to the inmate for this purpose.

Inmates will be allowed to retain sufficient clothing, or be provided with a suitably designed "safety garment" to provide for their personal privacy unless specific identifiable risks to the inmate's safety or to the security of the facility are documented.

An incident report shall be completed in the Correctional Management System on all Safety Cell placements as soon as practical.

RELATED STANDARDS

Title 15, Article 5, Section 1055
Chapter 2, Section 19
Chapter 4, Section 10

DATE REVISED

08-03-1994
05-11-2017

By order of

JAMIE SCARDINA
BUREAU COMMANDER