

2-06/030.15 Leg and Waist Chain

Leg chains are a length of chain with a padlock on each end. When placed on the inmate, they only allow him/her to take a step of approximately 12 inches. They can walk slowly but cannot run. These are also a psychological restraint and constant reminder to the inmate that they are in custody and escape is unlikely. The proper method of applying leg chains is to have the inmate stand in an off-balance position, or on their knees, facing away from the Deputy. The Deputy wraps an end of the chain around each leg and padlocks them snugly into place.

Waist chains are restraints made from a length of chain that encircles the waist. Handcuffs are attached to this chain by short lengths of chain in such a manner that the inmate's hands are held closely at their sides. The waist chain is locked snugly around the waist with a handcuff. This type of restraint is used when the possibility of escape is greatest or on long trips.

Inmates brought to a court facility in leg and waist restraints should remain in those restraints while in the lockup. One hand may be un-cuffed to allow the inmate to permit unassisted use of toilet facilities. If the inmate demonstrates a propensity to abuse this privilege, they shall be fitted with a garment that will provide for the safe and hygienic bodily functions without removing a handcuff. Lockup personnel shall permit the use of toilet facilities on request of the inmate if such a garment is not available.
