2-06/045.00 Use Of Alternate Security Devices

Alternate security devices, are devices which may be used on an inmate in a courtroom depending on several factors, including the type of hearing or trial, whether the custody is dressed in jail or civilian attire and the policies of the individual judge. Each situation must be individually evaluated and procedures implemented accordingly. The bailiffs should always be aware of the judge's policies. It is the bailiff's responsibility to inform the judge of the Department's policies regarding alternate security devices.

It may be difficult to use these devices on some inmates due to casts, crutches, slings, etc. The bailiff will have to determine the extent of the restriction of movement of the inmate and use discretion in determining whether the security devices can or should be used.

Flex cuffs: are sturdy nylon straps with a metal clip on one end. This device is not as secure as handcuffs and should only be used when handcuffs are unavailable. Flex cuffs are a temporary measure to be used for the immediate and short-term on an inmate that will be in constant view of a bailiff. The cuff is applied snugly to a custody's wrists, behind the back. Care should be taken to avoid applying it too tightly, as it cannot be loosened and should only be removed with heavy duty cutters. The device is not reusable.

Leg irons: are a set of handcuffs designed for the ankle. When applied to an inmate they only allow them to take a small step, thus they cannot run. The application of leg irons is the same as leg chains. Bailiffs should keep in mind the inmates can conceivably free themselves from any type of equipment.

Leg braces: are medical devices that fit over an inmate's leg and knee. It is normally worn under clothing so it can be used discreetly on an inmate during a jury trial and cannot be viewed by jurors.

The use of any other type of restraint device, at the request of the judge, (i.e., gags, medical restraints, etc.) shall only be used with approval of the Branch Supervisor. Branch Supervisors may contact the Custody Division Watch Commander for advice on the use of any other types of restraints.