

Recommendations Addressing Handcuffing/ Restraining Wounded Individuals

The Pensacola Police Department needs to make its procedures/ policies clearly state that members of the PPD should not handcuff or restrain individuals who have sustained serious physical harm, life-threatening wounds (such as gunshot wounds), or who require immediate medical attention. The PPD procedures need to clearly state these guidelines so that incidents of excessive force— such as the murder of Tymar Crawford who was shot five times and then placed in handcuffs— doesn't occur again.

1. The PPD's H-3.5 USE OF DEADLY FORCE #3 states: "If a member uses deadly force on a person and an injury occurs, medical aid should be performed on the person and EMS immediately summoned if it is safe for the member to do so."

This procedure doesn't directly state if members of the PPD should handcuff or not handcuff the wounded arrestee/prisoner/detainee. This loose language allows for officers to use their own judgement. To prevent incidents like Tymar Crawford's, this procedure needs to directly state that members of the PPD should not handcuff or restrain an arrestee/prisoner/detainee who has sustained serious physical harm, life-threatening wounds or requires immediate medical attention.

2. The PPD's P-6 Patrol Procedures #10 states: "If an arrestee/prisoner/detainee is in need of medical treatment, the arrestee, depending on his/her condition, will be transported by the officer or EMS to the appropriate medical facility."

This procedure doesn't directly state if members of the PPD should handcuff or not handcuff the arrestee/prisoner/detainee in need of medical treatment before transporting. This procedure needs to state that if the arrestee/prisoner/detainee has sustained serious physical harm, life-threatening wounds or requires immediate medical attention, the officers should not place the individual in handcuffs or other forms of restraints. If the arrestee/prisoner/detainee has sustained moderate physical harm, the officer should evaluate if handcuffs/ restraints are necessary and if the restraints could add to the individual's injury.