



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Date:** March 24, 2011

**To:** All EMS, Police, Fire Chiefs of Service  
Sponsor Hospital EMS Medical Directors  
Sponsor Hospital EMS Coordinators

**From:** Leonard, H. Guercia, Jr.   
Operations Branch Chief

Gary E. Wiemokly   
EMS Section Chief

**Re:** EMS use of handcuffs – Administrative Guidance

A question has been raised regarding the use of handcuffs as a restraint device for Emergency Medical Services personnel. The following guidance is designed to provide additional clarification on this issue. Current OEMS Regulations indicate that EMS professionals must not possess or utilize handcuffs.

### 19a-179-9. Specifically prohibited acts

(b) No person acting as an emergency medical service provider shall possess or carry handcuffs. Nor shall any person possess or carry any other restraint devices except those approved by OEMS in accordance with subsection 19a-179-18 (a) (2) (R) of these regulations. This provision shall not apply to sworn law enforcement officers while on duty as such.

EMS crews may use restraints compliant with Section 19a-179-18(a) (2) (R)

### 19a-179-18. Minimum vehicle standards

(a) Basic ambulance vehicles shall be inspected at least annually by OEMS and shall conform to the following design and equipment standards

(2) Equipment

(R) Restraint devices of sufficient strength to restrain a violent adult and sufficiently padded to prevent chafing or injury to patient

If a patient has been handcuffed by law enforcement and the removal of the handcuffs presents a danger to the patient or crew, it is recommended that the police officer either accompany the EMS crew in the ambulance or follow directly behind the ambulance enroute to the hospital. It is recommended that you consult with your local Police Department or Commander of the State Police Troop which covers your community to discuss any additional operational concerns and to assure everyone is acting in the best interest of patient care.

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