# Police Officer Standards

**and**

**Training Council**



## Statewide Policy Concerning

**Seat Safety Belt Use Required for Any Person Transported in a Municipal Police Vehicle**

**Date Adopted: November 9, 2023**

### Purpose

This policy is promulgated pursuant to Public Act 23-87. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines on the required use of seat safety belts by any person who is being transported in a municipal police vehicle.

### Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all law enforcement personnel tasked with the transportation of any person, including any person in police custody, to adhere to this policy. It is the

additional responsibility of supervisory and command staff to ensure its compliance.

### Procedures

The driver of a municipal police vehicle designated by the Law Enforcement Unit’s policy to transport any person is responsible for ensuring any person being transported in a municipal police vehicle is secure in such vehicle through the use of a seat safety belt.

Any Driver approved to transport children shall use the appropriate approved child safety seats designed for the child’s age, size, or weight for which such devices are prescribed by Connecticut General Statute 14-100a as might be amended from time to time when a child is transported in a municipal police vehicle in accordance with local policy and training.

No officer shall transport any person in a municipal police vehicle in which any seat safety belt is inoperable barring any emergency situation.

No officer shall modify, remove, deactivate, or otherwise tamper with the vehicle seat safety belts except for service, maintenance and repair, or with a factory approved seat belt

extension.

Personnel who discover an inoperable restraint system shall report the defect in accordance with the agency’s policy. The vehicle should not be used to transport any persons.

Any person(s) under arrest and being transported in a municipal police vehicle are required to be secured in the vehicle by a seat safety belt.

### Exceptions to Policy

* 1. Persons with a physical disability or impairment which limits mobility because of age, injury, or medical conditions that would prevent restraint in such seat safety belt.
  2. If any person is combative or officer safety considerations make doing so

impracticable an officer shall obtain permission from a supervisor to transport the person without the use of a seat safety belt.

* 1. If an officer deviates from the requirement to secure any person being transported with a seat safety belt as required in this policy, they should include such information and reason(s) in their report or CAD entry of the

incident/transport.

### Policy Violations

* 1. Agency Action- When a possible violation of this policy becomes known, the agency will investigate the issue pursuant to local procedures. When it is determined that a violation has occurred, and 1) the conduct constitutes a

violation of this policy, and 2) that such violation undermines the public confidence in the agency, the chief law enforcement officer of that agency shall

report the violation to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST-C).

* 1. POST Council Action-The Council shall conduct a de novo review of the case. Whenever the council believes there is a reasonable basis for suspension,

cancellation, or revocation of the certification of the police officer because of the reported violation, the Council shall give notice and an adequate opportunity for a hearing prior to such suspension, cancellation, or revocation.

Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes. If the Council finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a violation of this policy has occurred, the Council may suspend, cancel, or revoke the certification of the police officer in accordance with section 7-294d of the

general statutes.