

## **Safety Considerations for Transporting Detained Individuals**

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Transporting detained individuals in vehicles that are specifically designed and equipped with safety partitions or secure separation barriers is an essential component of officer safety, detainee safety, and overall public safety. These vehicles are designed to minimize risk and ensure that transportation is conducted in a controlled and secure manner.

### **Officer Safety**

Safety partitions create a physical barrier between the detainee and the transporting officer or staff member. This separation helps prevent physical assaults, interference with vehicle operation, or attempts to grab equipment or weapons. Without a partition, a detainee seated in close proximity to the driver could potentially distract, harm, or restrain the officer while the vehicle is in motion, placing everyone at risk.

### **Prevention of Escape Attempts**

Vehicles designed for detainee transport often include reinforced doors, child-lock mechanisms, and controlled entry and exit procedures. These safeguards reduce the risk of escape attempts during transit. Standard vehicles without these features may allow detained individuals easier access to door handles, windows, or other points that could facilitate escape.

### **Protection for the Detainee**

Proper transport vehicles are designed to protect the detainee as well. Secure seating areas, durable interiors, and clear separation reduce the likelihood of accidental injury or unsafe movement within the vehicle. Partitions can also prevent detainees from interfering with vehicle controls, which could lead to crashes or other dangerous situations.

### **Reduced Distractions for the Driver**

When detainees are transported in vehicles without partitions, officers may need to constantly monitor behavior in close proximity, which can distract from safe driving. Safety barriers allow the driver to focus on operating the vehicle and maintaining awareness of road conditions.

#### Prevention of Evidence Tampering or Equipment Access

Without a partition, detainees may be able to reach equipment, paperwork, or personal belongings in the front seat area. This could lead to tampering with evidence, accessing tools that could be used as weapons, or compromising sensitive materials.

#### Liability and Risk Management

Using properly equipped transport vehicles demonstrates adherence to established safety protocols and best practices. When detainees are transported in vehicles without proper safeguards, agencies increase their exposure to liability if an incident, injury, or escape occurs.

#### Public Safety Considerations

If a detainee interferes with the driver, attempts to escape, or causes a vehicle crash, the risk extends beyond the occupants of the vehicle to the general public. Partitioned transport vehicles reduce these risks by maintaining physical separation and control.

#### Conclusion

Vehicles equipped with safety partitions are specifically designed to maintain security, reduce risk, and protect everyone involved in the transport process. Utilizing vehicles that lack these safeguards can significantly increase the potential for injury, escape attempts, operational disruptions, and liability. For these reasons, transporting detained individuals in properly equipped vehicles should remain the standard practice whenever possible.

The Minnesota chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice supports practices that prioritize the safety and well-being of officers, detained individuals, and the general public. The organization believes that all detainee transports should follow established criteria and departmental policies that emphasize safety, proper equipment, and accountability. Ensuring that transport procedures include appropriate safeguards—such as vehicles designed for secure transport—helps maintain professional standards while protecting everyone involved in the process.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to safety and professional standards within the criminal justice system.

Respectfully,

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