

**COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTRA-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

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**TO:** All Personnel  
**FROM:** Sheriff \_\_\_\_\_  
**SUBJECT:** Stun Cuff Use Policy

**DATE:** mm-dd-year

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**POLICY:** It is the policy of the Sheriffs Office that deputies shall only activate the Stun Cuff in a situation or incident that reasonably appears necessary, given the facts and circumstances perceived by the deputy at the time of the event to effectively bring that situation or incident under control.

- 1 The Stun Cuff will be kept secured in a lock box in the Control Desk area where it will be kept charged. A list of trained personnel will be maintained and kept in the box also.
- 2 The Desk Sergeant will assure that anyone that is issued the Stun Cuff is a Deputy that has been trained in the application and use of the Stun Cuff.
- 3 A log will be kept of each time the Stun Cuff is issued and to which Deputy it was issued.
- 4 The Stun Cuff will be logged back in at the end of the detail.
- 5 The Stun Cuff will become part of the daily Check-Off list to make sure it has been returned and is being charged properly for the next day.

A Deputy Sheriff that feels the need to attach the Stun Cuff on an inmate assigned in his/her custody will request the Stun Cuff from the Desk Sergeant and inform the Sergeant of his/her reasons for requesting the Stun Cuff. The Sergeant will then issue the Stun Cuff if deemed appropriate.

The Stun Cuff shall only be activated in those situations where the use of firearms is not warranted and it is unsafe for Deputies to approach within contact range of suspect, the Stun Cuff is an effective control device for close range immobilization. The Stun Cuff may be used to control violent or potentially violent prisoners when a Deputy reasonably believes that the following conditions exist:

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- 6 Lethal force does not appear to be justifiable and/or necessary.
- 7 Attempts to subdue the suspect by conventional tactics will likely cause injury to the suspect, Deputies, court personnel or citizens.
- 8 There is reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for Deputies to approach within contact range of the suspect.

### **Stun Cuff Use Guidelines**

Only personnel trained in the use of the Stun Cuff will be authorized to use the device. Anyone using the Stun Cuff shall follow these guidelines prior to and during its use:

- 9 The Stun Cuff is only be used on prisoners who are deemed to be a security risk during trials, hearings or transports. This will allow the prisoner the appearance of innocence during the trial while maintaining courtroom safety.
- 10 The Judge shall be notified when the Stun Cuff is on an inmate in his/her courtroom
- 11 Prior to affixing the Stun Cuff to the inmate's ankle the Deputy shall explain how the device works and under what conditions it will be activated. The Deputy shall then provide a demonstration of it being activated prior to placement on the inmate.
- 12 The Stun Cuff should be placed on the prisoner's ankle before removing leg irons. The Stun Cuff should be placed on the ankle that is the farthest from the Jury when the prisoner is seated at the Defense table.
- 13 Due to the unique capabilities of the Stun Cuff, Deputies should use extreme caution and avoid standing near the suspect during its activation.
- 14 The Stun Cuff should initially be activated in one three second burst. Then the deputy shall re-evaluate the situation and threat level. If deemed necessary then the Stun Cuff should be activated a second time. The Stun Cuff shall not be fired for longer than is needed to gain compliance from a physically violent prisoner.
- 15 When a Deputy activates the Stun Cuff on an inmate, he/she shall immediately notify the Desk Sergeant via Radio so additional assistance may be sent to that location.

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- 16 The Stun Cuff is to be removed from the inmate before he/she is left unattended in a cell. Prior to removing the Stun Cuff leg irons will be placed on the inmate for Deputy safety.
- 17 If a Stun Cuff is placed on an inmate being transported to another jurisdiction the Deputies will notify the host jurisdiction. The Judge hearing the case will be notified that the Stun Cuff is in place and the reason.
- 18 Deputies transporting to another jurisdiction with a Stun Cuff in place will remain with the inmate in the courtroom.

#### **Desk Sergeants' Responsibilities**

- 19 Only permanent ranked Sergeants or above may issue the Stun Cuff
- 20 Make sure the Stun Cuff has been programmed and charged prior to use and placed in the charging device at the end of shift.
- 21 The Sergeant will evaluate any request for a Stun Cuff to be issued and issue the Stun Cuff if deemed appropriate.
- 22 Anytime a Sergeant issues the Stun Cuff he/she will notify the Court Lieutenant, who will then disseminate the information through the chain of command.
- 23 Ensure that a complete Use of Force Report is written by the end of shift for each incident in which the Stun Cuff is activated while on an inmate
- 24 A copy of the report will be forwarded to the Sheriff via the chain of command.
- 25 Ensure the Stun Cuff is placed in the charger in the lock box upon completion of the detail and its return is noted in the log.

**FORM #125 (REV 05-07-96)**