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<b>Central Transportation Unit</b>	<b>ACA Standards: 2-CO-3A-01</b>		
<b>Steven Harpe, Director</b> <b>Oklahoma Department of Corrections</b>		<b>Signature on File</b>	

## **Transportation of Inmates by Central Transportation Unit (CTU)**

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections Central Transportation Unit (CTU) provides transportation of inmates in a safe, secure and timely manner while fulfilling the agency’s mission to protect the public, the employees, and the inmates. These guidelines apply to all inmates transported by CTU. (2-CO-3A-01)

- I. Equipment
  - A. Vehicles

1. The assigned CTU officers will properly search, inspect and service all transportation vehicles and trailers; the results will be documented on the "CTU Activity Report" ([Attachment A](#), attached). This will be accomplished prior to departure on the assigned route. All vehicles will have an annual safety inspection conducted by a fleet specialist in accordance with state statues for any vehicle owned, leased or used in the operation of the facility.
2. The assigned CTU officers will ensure transportation vehicles are properly equipped for each assigned route in accordance with the "Driver's Checklist" ([Attachment B](#), attached).
3. Each transportation route will be assigned a cellular telephone to communicate with local law enforcement agencies and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.
  - a. The cellular telephone will be used on an as needed basis for official CTU business only.
  - b. The operation and condition of the cellular telephone will be checked daily and documented on the "Drivers Checklist" ([Attachment B](#), attached) prior to departure.
  - c. Each usage of the cellular telephone will be logged on the "CTU Activity Report" ([Attachment A](#), attached).
4. Complete sets of restraints, consisting of handcuffs, leg irons, belly chain, black box, and a lock for securing the equipment, will be available in transportation vehicles. Each van will have a minimum of 13 sets; mid-size prison transport vehicles (MPT) will have a minimum of 20 sets. Large buses will have a minimum of 40 sets.
5. All vehicles used for inmate transportation will have the inside door handles permanently disabled, screens or barriers installed on the windows, and a security barrier between the driver's compartment and the inmates.
6. Drivers of vehicles that transport over 20 passengers will possess a valid Department of Transportation Class B permit or Class B Commercial Driving License (CDL). Drivers of vehicles that transport 20 or less passengers will possess a valid Department of Transportation Class C permit or Class C Commercial Driving License (CDL).
  - a. All CTU officers will obtain a CDL permit within six months of their assignment to CTU and further obtain a CDL within an

additional six months, totaling one year after assignment to CTU.

- b. Staff will be reimbursed for the cost of the CDL.
  - c. A copy of the CDL certification is to be provided to the Training unit so that it may be tracked on the Workday System.
7. CTU vehicles used for transporting 20 or more inmates will be equipped with a video camera mounted in a manner to observe the inmates during transportation.

## B. Weapons

1. Each CTU officer will be assigned a duty firearm and ammunition by the site supervisor and as specified by the CTU post orders.
  - a. The CTU site supervisors will ensure cleaning and inspections of the firearms are conducted in accordance with [OP-040106](#) entitled "Purchase, Use, and Control of Firearms and Security Equipment."
  - b. All CTU officers will use the agency's approved duty gear only.
2. A canister of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) pepper spray will be issued to all CTU officers that are certified in the application of OC.
3. All weapons, to include OC spray with decontamination kit containing 500ml of saline and one eyewash bottle, and the expandable baton, will be used only in accordance with [OP-050108](#) entitled "Use of Force Standards and Reportable Incidents."

## II. Emergency Procedures

### A. Breakdown

1. In the event of a mechanical malfunction or other emergency, the CTU transporting officer will park the vehicle, ensure that all vehicle exits are secure, and inmates are safe and secure.
2. The CTU route supervisor will determine whether circumstances warrant the partial removal of restraints.
3. Safety cones and/or reflectors will be deployed to warn oncoming traffic.

B. Information Reported During Breakdown or Other Emergency

The CTU transporting officer will report the following information by cellular telephone to the nearest facility or law enforcement agency and the site supervisor:

1. Vehicle identification and number of inmates;
2. Exact location of the vehicle;
3. Details of the situation to include:
  - a. Mechanical malfunction;
  - b. Medical emergency;
  - c. Escape;
  - d. Other emergency situation; and
  - e. The type of assistance required.

If telephone communication cannot be established, the transporting officer may ask a passing motorist to relay the necessary information.

C. Disturbance

1. In the event a disturbance occurs and the inmates ignore verbal orders to halt, the driver will pull to the side of the road and bring the vehicle to a complete stop.
2. The CTU route supervisor will assess the situation and make a decision whether to send an officer into the inmate passenger area to resolve the situation.
  - a. If the route supervisor decides to send an officer into the inmate passenger area that assigned officer will secure his/her firearm and keys with the supervisor prior to entering the area of the disturbance and may use the least amount of force necessary to regain control of the situation.
  - b. The CTU route supervisor will take appropriate action to control the situation (i.e., relocate inmates and/or utilize OC spray).

- c. Impact weapons, such as the expandable baton, will be used for self-defense and escort purposes only.
3. In the event that the CTU transport officer is unable to stop the disturbance, the route supervisor will radio or telephone the nearest facility or law enforcement agency and request assistance. The CTU route supervisor will provide the responding agency with his/her exact location, number of inmates involved and type of assistance that is required.
4. All use of force and other reportable incidents will be reported in accordance with [OP-050108](#) entitled "Use of Force Standards and Reportable Incidents."

D. Accidents

Accidents that occur during any CTU activity will be reported as soon as possible to the proper CTU site supervisor or CTU chief of security. Risk Management accident forms and incident reports will be completed prior to the involved officers going off duty.

E. Drug Testing

A drug/alcohol test will be required in accordance with [OP-110601](#) entitled "Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing Procedures for Drivers of Commercial Motor Vehicles" in the following circumstances:

1. Any instance when a fatality occurs or a citation is issued to the driver of the CTU vehicle for a moving violation arising from an accident involving bodily injury requiring medical treatment;
2. Any accident or disabling damage requiring a vehicle to be towed from the scene with the exception of an accident involving wildlife; and
3. As randomly selected by the ODOC Human Resource unit on a quarterly basis.

F. Medical Emergencies While Transporting Inmates

1. CTU officers will immediately notify the nearest facility of the suspected issue, current location and destination.
2. CTU officers will proceed to the nearest medical facility for emergency treatment.

3. The route supervisor or designee shall remain with the vehicle at all times. One officer shall remain with the patient until relieved by an ODOC officer.
4. The route supervisor or designee will contact the local law enforcement and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.
5. In the event an inmate is in transit layover, the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center will be responsible for providing transportation to any medical facility.
6. In the event an inmate in transit is admitted to a hospital, the administrator of Classification and Population will coordinate with the appropriate administrator of Institutions.

### III. Transportation Guidelines

#### A. Security Level

All inmates transported by CTU will be considered maximum security.

1. Inmates placed on protective custody may be transported with other inmates and will be placed in a separate, secure seating area dependent on the availability of the appropriate vehicle. In the event an appropriate vehicle is not available and a protective custody inmate transport is cancelled, the CTU chief of security will notify the population office.
2. Death row inmates will be transported as a special transport with a chase vehicle and will only be transported with other death row inmates.
3. Male and female inmates will normally be transported separately.

#### B. Statewide Movement

Inmates listed on the statewide movement sheets from the Population Office are the only inmates who will be transported by CTU.

1. All inmates will be transported in full restraints regardless of their assigned security level (2-CO-3A-01)
2. Medical exceptions concerning the application of restraints may be made in writing by a medical provider on an as needed basis only, and reported to the CTU site supervisor.

- a. Pregnant inmates will be transported in accordance with 57 O.S. § 4.2 without restraints. Exceptions can only be made by the facility/unit health care authority with documentation on the “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Authorization to Apply Restraints to a Pregnant Inmate” ([DOC 040111A](#)).
3. Restraints may be modified to accommodate physical conditions, (e.g., obese inmates, missing limbs) as approved by the CTU route supervisor.
4. In the event the CTU route supervisor determines that any portion of the restraints will not be applied, the CTU chief of security/ CTU Captain will be notified for approval prior to the transport.
5. At least one of the CTU transporting officers will be the same gender as the inmates being transported with the exception of an emergency situation with CTU chief of security approval.
6. If any inmate is deemed unsuitable for placement at the receiving facility, the facility head will notify the appropriate administrator of Institutions for resolution.
  - a. If it is deemed that the facility cannot accept the inmate, the administrator of Classification & Population will be notified.
  - b. If the inmate cannot remain at the designated facility, the inmate will be returned to the reception center by the receiving facility.
  - c. CTU will be allowed to depart and continue on its scheduled route.
7. All inmates will be strip searched by sending facility personnel prior to being transported in accordance with [OP-040109](#) entitled "Control of Contraband and Physical Evidence" and [OP-040110](#) entitled "Search and Seizure Standards" to ensure there is no contraband.
  - a. All inmates being transported will be listed on the “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Inmate Transfer/Receipt Form” ([DOC 030120C](#)) and signed for prior to acceptance from the sending facility by the accepting staff member.
  - b. Prior to being placed on any CTU vehicle, each inmate listed on the “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Inmate Transfer/Receipt Form” ([DOC 030120C](#)), including Writ of Habeas Corpus moves, will be positively identified using information contained on the “Consolidated Record Card”

(CRC) ([DOC 060211H](#)) such as name, ODOC number, date of birth, a large photo-from the inmate's field file or picture on the driver's sheet.

- c. Restraints will be inspected and inmates will be pat searched prior to being placed on any CTU vehicle. Restraints will be inspected any time an inmate is removed from the vehicle and before reboarding.
  - d. At no time will an inmate be out of the CTU transporting officer's line of sight or left unattended. When moving inmates from one vehicle to another, officers will place themselves so that they can observe each entrance and exit of both vehicles.
  - e. When CTU vehicles are being re-fueled, at least one CTU officer will remain in the vehicle to provide direct line of sight supervision of inmates.
8. Whenever possible, the loading and unloading of inmates at maximum and medium security facilities will be conducted inside the fenced perimeter.
  9. Those facilities without perimeter fencing will provide a secure area with adequate lighting. An armed officer may remain with the CTU vehicle during the loading and unloading of inmates.
  10. Facility staff will prepare inmates to be transported by CTU in accordance with [OP-040110](#) entitled "Search and Seizure Standards," before the CTU vehicle arrives. The inmates and their allowable property will be isolated from the general population after the search is conducted. Each facility will ensure that adequate shelter is available for inmates awaiting movement via CTU. The CTU officers, with the facility's assistance, will restrain and load the inmates for movement by CTU.
  11. CTU officers are authorized, at their discretion, to conduct a second strip search of any or all inmates prior to transport. Sending facilities will provide an appropriate place for CTU officers to conduct strip searches.
  12. Records and property will normally be made available for CTU pickup at the same location where the inmates are prepared for transport. If the inmate property is not ready when the inmate is picked up, it will be referred to as follow-up property and will require approval of the CTU chief of security/CTU captain to be taken at a later date by CTU route.



C. Movement Coordination and Modified Movements

1. Movement of inmates, property and their records will be coordinated through the Population Office with the scheduling of each inmate being completed by appropriate staff.
2. If an inmate cannot be moved via CTU scheduled route, or is not prepared for movement in a timely manner, the movement will be modified, canceled or completed by the sending facility. The modification or cancellation will be cleared through the Population Office no later than the next working day.

D. Writ Moves for County Courts

1. Inmates will be moved on a Writ of Habeas Corpus for non-agency felony charges upon the request of a county. These moves will be made without records and property, with the exception of legal materials.
  - a. The sending facility will provide the CTU transporting officer with a copy of the inmate's CRC and a large clear photo of the inmate.
  - b. Copies of the CRC and the large clear photo will be faxed to the Population Office by the facility housing the affected inmate, if requested.
2. Unless prior approval is granted by the administrator of Classification and Population, the county sheriffs will be responsible for transporting inmates that are currently located within 60 miles of the requesting county's county seat. The county sheriff's department will also transport female inmates that are in the third trimester of pregnancy, and death row inmates.
3. The county sheriff or designee will contact the facility housing the inmate to arrange a move in accordance with this procedure.
  - a. Notice will be given to the facility housing the inmate by sending or faxing a copy of the writ. The holding facility will send the writ along with the "Bus Ticket Request Form" ([OP-060204, Attachment B](#)) a minimum of seven business days prior to the scheduled hearing. The Population Office will then schedule the move.
  - b. On the date scheduled by the Population Office, the inmate

- will be moved to the facility closest to the requesting county.
- c. If the requesting county is not present when CTU arrives, CTU will proceed with their scheduled routes. A decision on future service to that county will be made by the administrator of Classification and Population or designee and the affected administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee.
  - d. If the transport is ahead of or behind schedule, the CTU route supervisor will notify the sheriff's office and any affected facilities.
4. Upon notification to the Population Office, a return move will be scheduled. Normally, the inmate will be returned to the facility from where the inmate was originally transported.
  5. County law enforcement officers will meet CTU at the designated exchange points, to accept and/or relinquish custody of the affected inmate. An "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Inmate Transfer/Receipt Form" ([DOC 030120C](#)) will be completed by the accepting CTU staff.
    - a. Any deviation in the meeting times, as assigned by the Population Office, will be cause for the route supervisor to contact the county with the new arrival time.
    - b. The facility cannot accept/hold inmates on a county writ transfer. County law enforcement personnel will be at the facility to receive/transfer the inmate directly with CTU.
  6. If the move is for an inmate on a mental health unit (MHU) at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center (MBCC) or Joseph Harp Correctional Center (JHCC), the facility will determine the inmate's mental status.
    - a. The requesting county will be contacted and if the inmate is stable and able to appear in court, either the county sheriff's department or the facility will transport the inmate to the court appointment.
    - b. If the inmate is not stable, the county will be notified of the inmate's condition. If the court date is still scheduled for the inmate, the county sheriff's department will transport the inmate.
    - c. Normally, MHU inmates will not be transported by CTU. In the

event CTU is required to transport MHU inmates, a clearance by the mental health clinical coordinator or designee will be received prior to scheduling the transport.

E. CTU Schedules

CTU will maintain a timely schedule of the routes. The CTU route supervisor will notify facilities of an early/late arrival. When normal arrival or departure times cannot be adhered to, the CTU route supervisor will notify the affected facilities and provide the new arrival and departure times.

F. CTU Staffing/Inspections

1. Staffing requirements of the vehicles will be based on the number of inmates to be transported and availability of specific vehicles.
  - a. Any time a 40 passenger Motor Coach Industries (MCI) bus has in excess of 20 inmates on board, a minimum of three transport officers will be used.
  - b. Any exceptions to the staffing levels will be approved prior to transport by the CTU chief of security.
  - c. All high risk or high-profile transports will be staffed at the discretion of the CTU chief of security.
2. All CTU officers will be in compliance with, and tested in accordance with, [OP-110601](#) entitled "Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing Procedures for Drivers of Commercial Vehicles."
3. Each CTU site supervisor and the CTU garage staff will conduct weekly and monthly inspections of staff, security equipment, site inspections, caustics, toxics, flammables, tools, vehicles, buildings and their surroundings. These inspections will ensure compliance with agency policy and procedures and will be documented on "CTU Site Inspection" ([Attachment D](#), attached) and forwarded to the CTU chief of security for review each month.

IV. Approved Items for Inmate/Parole Violators Transportation

A. Medications

Medications for transport will be in accordance with [OP-140113](#) entitled "Health Assessments for Inmate Transfers." Inmates are authorized to keep on person during transport prescribed nitrogen pills and an asthma inhaler.

B. Clothing

1. A jumpsuit;
2. Long pants, underwear, shirt, socks, and shoes;
3. Ring (not homemade);
4. Footwear

While in transit inmates will not be allowed to wear shoes with open toe or heel (e.g., shower shoes, sandals, clogs);

5. For inmates who require clothing that is unique in size and may not be readily available at the receiving facility, the sending facility head may authorize such item(s) to be packed in the inmate's property.

The sending facility head shall prepare a memorandum listing each item that is authorized to be packed in the inmate's property. A copy of the memo shall be provided to the property officer and packed in the inmates' property box.

C. Identification

The inmate's ID card will normally be placed in their pocket.

D. Legal Material

Legal material for inmates transported on a Writ of Habeas Corpus for a felony hearing will be placed in a manila envelope.

E. Unauthorized Clothing

Inmates will not be authorized to be transported by CTU with coats, sweat pants, hooded sweatshirts, shorts or hats/caps.

V. Transportation of Inmate Property

The sending facility is responsible for preparing all inmate property to be transported with the inmate in accordance with [OP-030120](#) entitled "Inmate Property." Any property not properly prepared by the sending facility will be the responsibility of that facility. Property left behind by CTU due to lack of space, or due to CTU arriving early, will remain the responsibility of CTU.

A. Packaging of Inmate Property

Upon transfer, the amount of allowable inmate personal property will not

exceed the volume that can be transported in a military-style duffel bag issued by the sending facility. The inmate's television will be transported in an appropriate size cardboard box. Other electrical appliances, allowed legal, religious and arts/crafts materials, will be transported in a 24"x18"x18" or smaller cardboard box or duffel bag.

The following restrictions will apply to all inmate property transported by CTU:

1. The duffel bag and the individual boxes will weigh no more than 50 pounds per item.
2. Duffel bags will be secured with a security seal by the sending facility, with the exception of inmates transferring from the reception center. Boxes will be properly sealed with reinforced packing tape. Boxes that are sealed with masking tape or boxes that are open or damaged will not be transported from the sending facility by CTU.
3. All boxes and duffel bags will be clearly marked to show the inmate's name, ODOC number and destination.
4. Each box and duffel bag will have a copy of the current inventory sheet affixed and marked to indicate the number of boxes (e.g., 1 of 3, 2 of 3), utilizing the "Inmate CTU Packages" form ([Attachment C](#), attached).
5. Parole violators being transported to the appropriate assessment and reception center and writ moves will transport with no property.
6. Mattresses will not be transported by CTU.

## VI. Inmate Records

- A. The inmate's field file and the health care record (hardcopy) or a sealed "Medical Transfer Summary" ([DOC 140113A](#)) (for those inmates who do not have a hardcopy healthcare record) and x-rays will be prepared for transport with the inmate by the sending facility. These files will be prepared in accordance with [OP-060212](#) entitled "Maintenance and Access of Inmate/Offender Records."
- B. A current copy of the inmate's CRC will be affixed to the outside of the files for inmate and file identification by CTU staff. Inmates will only be transported by CTU when both records accompany the inmate, unless notified by the Population Office. The following will be the only exceptions:
  1. Parole violators and probation and parole inmates (i.e., GPS and

Electronic Monitoring Program) may be transported with only their field file.

2. Inmates who are moved on county writs.
- C. The only exception to the above will be those records sent to the appropriate assessment and reception center records on a space available basis. The sending facility will ensure that the records are properly packaged, marked and placed in the proper area for CTU movement.

## VII. Medical Considerations

### A. Inmates with Physical/Mental Health Conditions

When an inmate is scheduled to be transported that has a physical or mental condition, which would make transportation on a regular route unlikely, the sending facility will notify the Population Office.

1. A decision will be made to ensure appropriate measures are taken by either CTU using a modified vehicle or the sending facility will transport the inmate in accordance with [OP-040111](#) entitled "Transportation of Inmates."
2. In the event of a medical emergency, the hard copy health care record or the "Medical Transfer Summary" ([DOC 140113A](#)) (if the inmate does not have a hard copy health care record) is to be provided to qualified personnel for review (e.g., doctors, nurses or emergency medical technicians).

### B. Inmate Healthcare Records

The healthcare record (hardcopy) or a sealed "Medical Transfer Summary" ([DOC 140113A](#)) (for those inmates who do not have a hard copy healthcare record) and x-rays will accompany the inmate when transferred to another ODOC facility or private prison at the time of transport with the exceptions of parole violators and probation and parole inmates (i.e., GPS and Electronic Monitoring Program) and inmates who are moved on county writs unless notified by computer message by the Population Office. The healthcare record will be transported in a manner to maintain confidentiality.

### C. Inmate Medications

1. All inmates, regardless of destination, will be transported with their packaged, prescribed medications, including insulin. Transportation of medications will be in accordance with [OP-040111](#) entitled "Transportation of Inmates" and [OP-140113](#) entitled "Health

Assessments for Inmate Transfers.”

2. CTU will deliver any returned medication supplies from the county jail to the receiving facility.

#### VIII. References

Policy Statement P-040100 entitled “Security Standards for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections”

OP-030120 entitled “Inmate Property”

OP-040106 entitled “Purchase, Use, and Control of Firearms and Security Equipment”

OP-040109 entitled “Control of Contraband and Physical Evidence”

OP-040110 entitled “Search and Seizure Standards”

OP-040111 entitled “Transportation of Inmates”

OP-050108 entitled “Use of Force Standards and Reportable Incidents”

OP-060212 entitled “Maintenance and Access of Inmate/Offender Records”

OP-060204 entitled “Inmate Transfers”

OP-110601 entitled “Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing Procedures for Drivers of Commercial Motor Vehicles”

OP-140113 entitled “Health Assessments for Inmate Transfers”

57 O.S. § 4.2

#### IX. Action

The chief administrator of Institutions and administrator of Classification and Population will be responsible for compliance with this procedure.

The chief administrator of Classification and Programs will be responsible for the annual review and revisions.

Any exceptions to this procedure will require prior written approval from the agency director.

This procedure is effective as indicated.

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Replaced: OP-040401 entitled "Transportation of Inmates by Central Transportation Unit (CTU)" dated December 16, 2021

Distribution: Policy and Operations Manual  
Agency Website



<u>Referenced Forms</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>
<a href="#">DOC 030120C</a>	“Oklahoma Department of Corrections Inmate Transfer/Receipt Form”	<a href="#">OP-030120</a>
<a href="#">DOC 040111A</a>	“Oklahoma Department of Corrections Authorization to Apply Restraints to a Pregnant Inmate”	<a href="#">OP-040111</a>
<a href="#">DOC 060211H</a>	“Consolidated Record Card”	<a href="#">OP-060211</a>
<a href="#">DOC 140113A</a>	“Medical Transfer Summary”	<a href="#">OP-140113</a>

<u>Attachments</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>
<a href="#">Attachment A</a>	“CTU Activity Report”	Attached
<a href="#">Attachment B</a>	“Driver’s Checklist”	Attached
<a href="#">Attachment C</a>	“Inmate CTU Packages”	Attached
<a href="#">Attachment D</a>	“CTU Site Inspection”	Attached

