



American Jail Association

Use of Restraints on Pregnant and Postpartum Detainees

- WHEREAS,** pregnancy and childbirth represent a significant medical event involving risk to both the mother and child, requiring specialized management and care; and
- WHEREAS,** the use of mechanical restraints on pregnant individuals may create medical liability and increase the risk of adverse clinical outcomes; and
- WHEREAS,** recognized professional standards and legal guidelines advise restricting the use of restraints on pregnant populations to ensure humane treatment and constitutional compliance.

**THEREFORE,
BE IT**

RESOLVED, that the American Jail Association supports the adoption of practices that prioritize the health and safety of pregnant detainees by limiting the use of restraints to extraordinary circumstances; and

**THEREFORE,
BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED that the American Jail Association advocates for policies that utilize the least restrictive means necessary to ensure safety, including, but not limited to:

- Limiting the use of restraints during transport, labor, and postpartum recovery to instances where an individualized assessment identifies an immediate security threat.
- Ensuring that restraints are immediately removed if medical personnel determine they interfere with medical treatment or patient safety.
- Avoiding the use of restraints that restrict the abdominal area or balance, such as leg irons or waist chains.
- Applying wrist restraints in the front of the body when usage is determined to be necessary; and
- Requiring detailed documentation of the extraordinary circumstances necessitating any use of restraints.

**THEREFORE,
BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED that the American Jail Association supports the practice of stationing detention staff outside the room during labor and delivery to ensure privacy, unless medical personnel request assistance or an active security threat exists.

Sunset Provision

**THEREFORE,
BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and shall remain in full force and effect for a period of five (5) years, after which it shall automatically expire on May 16, 2031, unless formally reaffirmed, revised, or amended by the Board of Directors prior to that date.

ADOPTED this 16th day of May 2026