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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

American Jail Association Resolution Use of Restraints on Pregnant Inmates

- WHEREAS,** pregnancy and childbirth represents a significant life-safety risk to both mother and child, and
- WHEREAS,** restraint policies and operating procedures in some agencies/jurisdictions are silent with respect to pregnant women in custody, and
- WHEREAS,** some agencies/jurisdictions require or allow for the use of restraints during labor and delivery, and
- WHEREAS,** policy expectations that prohibit or restrict the use of restraints with pregnant women in custody are not always reflected in practice;

**THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED
THAT**

the American Jail Association is committed to utilizing the least restrictive methods and restraints in transporting pregnant offenders to ensure their health and safety and protect the public. Such methods and restraints include:

- the utilization of wrist restraints applied in front of a pregnant offender;
- the non-use of leg irons or waist chains when transporting a pregnant offender;
- the non-use of restraints of any kind utilized on an offender in labor, during childbirth or post partum recovery;

**AND BE IT
FURTHER**

RESOLVED THAT the American Jail Association support the above listed least restrictive restraint methods except in extraordinary circumstances, which are defined as preventing the pregnant offender from escape or injuring herself or others including medical or detention staff, and that no detention staff should be present in the room during labor or childbirth, unless specifically requested by medical personnel and in such case that detention staff are required to be present, the detention staff should be female.

Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 14, 2011, in Cincinnati, Ohio.