

USE OF FORCE AND RESTRAINT POLICY

Annex 1 – Medical warnings on the use of force and restraint

Serious medical complications or deaths during restraint situations are rare; however improved planning can reduce that number even further.

Unless an urgent safety or security issues exists, before making the decision that a use of force is necessary, you must consider the detainee's behaviour and whether it may be driven by a potential health or medical issue rather than resistance to your direction.

People can have various medical conditions that:

- a) increase the likelihood of non-compliance with your instructions
- b) increase the risk to their health if officers use force or
- c) a combination of these.

Considering if a detainee may have a medical condition that could increase the risk to them during a restraint situation helps you meet your obligations under the Humans Right Act 2004.

You are not expected to diagnose a person's health condition. If you can recognise when a person is not acting 'normally' and react by informing Justice Health, you will go a long way to improving the safety of the detainee.

Signs and symptoms that can indicate distress or a potential medical emergency when applying force include:

- behaviour such as:
 - exceptional agitation or hyperactivity
 - aggression
 - paranoia
 - hallucinations and delusional behaviour
- physical signs such as:
 - breathing difficulties
 - increased body temperature (excessive sweating)
 - prolonged physical resistance
 - sudden tranquillity following a violent struggle.
 - unexpected strength

This material is not, nor is it intended to serve as, medical advice.

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Annex 2 – Approved instruments of restraint in ACT correctional centres

Mechanical restraints

1. Handcuffs
2. Flexi-cuffs
3. Escort chains
4. Ankle cuffs
5. Body belts

Personal Protective Equipment

1. Body armour
2. Helmets
3. Shields

Advanced use of force (restricted to custodial officers with up-to-date training competency in advanced use of force techniques)

1. Batons
2. Chemical agents
3. Chemical deployment devices

NOTE: This annex must not be amended without the express approval of the Commissioner.