


NORTHAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Administration & Operations Manual		
Policy: Use of Seat Belts		AOM: O-207
Massachusetts Police Accreditation Standards Referenced:		Issuing Authority <hr/> Jody Kasper Chief of Police
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I. Introductory Discussion

Police officers operate cruisers 24-hours a day and under all different types of traffic and weather conditions. Additionally, they also engage in emergency driving. These factors increase the likelihood of officers being involved in a traffic accident. The use of seat belts can significantly reduce the chances and severity of officer injury in the event of a collision. Furthermore, the use of seat belts by operators of police vehicles can set examples for the citizenry and demonstrate to them that the police really believe in the importance of their use. Therefore, it is with these factors in mind that the following policy has been adopted.

II. Department Policy

- A. Operators and all passengers riding in Northampton Police Department vehicles shall wear seat belts and utilize child-safety restraints when necessary. This shall include sworn personnel, civilian personnel, detainees, and any other individual riding as a passenger.
- B. In the case of detainees, where their violent behavior, incapacitation, or medical complications preclude the use of a seat belt, an explanation as to why the detainee was not restrained by a seat belt shall be documented in detail in the officer's incident report.