

- I. Purpose
- II. Policy
- III. Procedures

- I. Purpose

This Directive establishes procedures for the control of minor children in the company of persons arrested by officers of the Division.

- II. Policy

It must be recognized by all officers of this Division that any time a person is arrested, regardless of the offense, and that person is accompanied by a minor child, the arresting officer becomes the person primarily responsible for the safety and well-being of the child.

- III. Procedures

- A. Officers will, when appropriate, attempt to locate a person to take custody of a minor child in the company of an arrestee prior to transporting either from the scene of arrest. Persons accepting custody of the child will meet at least one of the criteria listed below.

- B. CPU prohibits minor children from accompanying arrestees. Minor children who accompany arrested persons, will be separated from the arrestee prior to being transported to CPU, or as deemed necessary by the arresting officer.

- C. Watch Commander/Shift Supervisor will be notified of any arrest where an arrestee is accompanied by a minor child. Watch Commander/Shift Supervisor will assign an employee to supervise minor children in the Division's care.

- 1. This employee will be responsible for the safety and well-being of the child and will locate a responsible person to accept custody of child (see list below).

- 2. Employees assigned to supervise children will attend to the needs of the child to the extent necessary to ensure the safety and comfort of the child.

- 3. A minor child will not be placed in a holding cell unless the child has been charged with the commission of a crime.

- D. An "Authorization For Release of Minor Child" form will be completed prior to the release of a child to anyone other than the arrestee. Children may only be released to the following:

- 1. Person or persons designated, in writing, by the arrestee.
  - 2. A parent or legal guardian of the child after proof of identity has been verified.
  - 3. An authorized representative of the Juvenile Services Administration.
  - 4. An authorized representative of the Montgomery County Protective Services.
  - 5. A representative of another law enforcement agency when he/she assumes custody of the arrestee and the child.

- E. Minor children will be transported in accordance with Maryland Annotated Code, "Child Safety Seats."

**Approved Park Police Document  
Signed Original on File**

**End of Directive**