

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
MEGHALAYA : SHILLONG

Circular No. 13 /2014

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to Deal with Arrested Accused/UTP while they are in Police Custody.

Some glaring instances of escape of arrested persons from police custody have come to the notice of the Police Headquarters. Such escapes have occurred largely due to negligence and dereliction of duty on the part of the police officers. In some cases it has been strongly suspected that the police personnel might have connived in letting the arrested accused escape. The other issue which has engaged the Police Hqrs concerns incidents of death of accused in police custody which have been reported from some districts.

As per Sec 55-A, CrPC, it shall be the duty of the persons having the custody of an accused to take reasonable care of the health and safety of the accused. It is, therefore, lawfully incumbent upon all the district Superintendents of Police to take adequate precautions in ensuring physical safety of the accused persons under custody and also that they do not escape from custody.

The following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are hereby issued with a view to enable the District Superintendents of Police to formulate effective strategy in dealing with the issue in question at the level of PS/OP/PP staff:

Handcuffing

Legal provisions with regard to handcuffing have been issued the Police Hqrs Circular No. 10/2014 dated and Circular No. 10/1994. They may be referred to while handcuffing an accused person.

Prevention of custodial death in lock up:

The procedures should be followed in ensuring the safety of accused persons in lock-ups:

1. Officer-in-charge should search the body of the arrested person and remove everything from his possession except necessary articles of wearing apparel and should give the arrested person a receipt for all articles taken from him.
2. The officer-in-charge of Police station or Outpost will personally enter and examine the lock-up and see that no weapons or articles that can

