



DELHI POLICE

STANDING ORDER NO. L&O/84/ 2026

STANDARDISATION OF CUSTODIAL FACILITIES AND TREATMENT OF ARRESTED PERSONS AND DETAINEES IN POLICE STATION LOCK-UPS

1. Introduction

1.1 This Standing Order is issued to consolidate, clarify, and reinforce existing statutory and administrative provisions relating to custodial facilities and treatment of arrested persons and detainees in police station lock-ups.

1.2 This Standing Order is administrative and clarificatory in nature, and is intended to consolidate, clarify and facilitate uniform application and effective implementation of existing statutory, constitutional and mandated duties in this regard.

2. Scope and Applicability

2.1 This Standing Order shall apply to all police stations, police posts having lock-up facilities, and any other premises where persons are kept in police custody for any lawful purpose.

2.2 The provisions shall apply to arrested persons, persons detained under preventive provisions, and persons temporarily detained pending production before a competent authority.

2.3 The treatment of persons in police custody shall be governed by the Punjab Police Rules, Delhi Police Standing Orders, and judicial directions issued from time to time.

3. Guiding Principles of Custodial Care

3.1 Every person in police custody shall be treated with dignity, humanity, and fairness, irrespective of the nature of the offence or legal status.

3.2 Custodial facilities shall not be punitive in nature and shall conform to minimum standards of health, hygiene, safety, and decency as prescribed under law.

3.3 The responsibility for ensuring humane custodial conditions shall at all times rest with the Station House Officer (SHO) of the police station.

4. Lock-up Capacity, Safety, and Physical Condition

4.1 The authorised capacity of each lock-up shall be prominently displayed outside the lock-up.

4.2 Lock-ups shall be adequately lit and maintained in a clean and habitable condition.

4.3 Overcrowding of lock-ups shall be avoided under all circumstances, and alternative lawful arrangements shall be made where required.

5. Bedding, Rest, and Living Conditions

5.1 Every detainee shall be supplied bedding by the police station as per the prescribed scale under the Punjab Police Rules.

5.2 Ordinarily, one blanket and one mat shall be provided during summer, and three blankets during winter.

5.3 Blankets, mats, and other bedding shall be washed, sun-dried, and aired at regular intervals to maintain hygiene and prevent infestation.

5.4 Bedding brought by family members may be permitted after examination by police staff and shall be returned upon release or remand.

6. Provision of Food and Diet

6.1 A fixed and reasonable per-detainee per diet amount, as notified by the competent authority, shall be operationalised for uniformity and clarity.

6.2 As far as practicable, food shall be arranged through the police station mess to ensure quality, hygiene, and accountability.

6.3 Food brought by family members or relatives/friends may be accepted after due examination for prohibited or injurious items, but such persons shall not be allowed access to detainees/arrestees.

6.4 Details regarding the provision of diet at government expense shall be clearly recorded in the relevant registers.

7. Special Diet and Medical Dietary Needs

7.1 Detainees suffering from medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiac ailments, or any condition requiring a regulated diet should be provided a special diet as per medical advice.

7.2 Medical opinion shall be obtained at the earliest opportunity, and dietary instructions should be complied with.

7.3 Medically advised food brought by family members may be accepted after verification and examination.

8. Drinking Water

8.1 Safe and potable drinking water shall be made available to detainees at all times without exception.

8.2 Drinking water shall be provided through clean plastic mugs/glasses, or bottles, which shall be washed and maintained hygienically.

9. Hygiene, Sanitation, and Cleanliness

9.1 Lock-ups, toilets, and wash areas shall be cleaned regularly and maintained in a hygienic condition.

9.2 Functional toilets with access to water shall be ensured for detainees.

9.3 Adequate arrangements for sanitation, including availability of sweepers, cleaning materials, and water supply, shall be ensured at all times.

10. Female Detainees and Gender-Sensitive Care

10.1 Female detainees shall be treated with dignity, privacy, and sensitivity in accordance with the law.

10.2 Sanitary napkins shall be provided to female detainees on request or where required.

10.3 Female detainees shall be searched, escorted, and handled strictly in accordance with established legal provisions and guidelines.

11. Medical Care and Emergencies

11.1 Any person who is ill or injured at the time of arrest or becomes ill or injured during custody shall be medically examined at the earliest opportunity.

11.2 Seriously ill or injured detainees shall be shifted to a hospital with safe custody arrangements, and judicial remand should be obtained as required.

11.3 Medical examination reports and treatment records shall be properly maintained.

12. Seasonal Arrangements

12.1 During extreme weather conditions, suitable arrangements shall be made to ensure humane custody.

12.2 Desert coolers during summer and heaters during winter may be provided where required, ensuring that such equipment is installed outside the lock-up and does not compromise safety or security.

13. Budgetary and Financial Provisions

13.1 The expenditure relating to food and other essential requirements of arrestee/detainee is met through established and authorised budget heads in accordance with the applicable financial rule and administrative instructions as detailed below:-

A) Delegation of Financial Powers Rules-2024: As per the notification dated 22nd March 2024, the procurement of cleaning materials, hospital drugs and medicines, medical supplies, clothing and tentage etc. shall be drawn from the head of account "Materials & Supplies". Apart from these, housekeeping, pest control, refreshment, drinking water etc. shall be drawn from the head of account "Office Expenses".

B) Imprest Money: A provision of Rs. 2.00 lakh per police station (comprising Rs 1.00 Lakh for investigation related expenses and Rs. 1.00 lakh for Miscellaneous expenditure at police station level) has been established vide Order No. 12259-358/Actt./PHQ/Misc. dated 23/11/2021.

C) Other Revenue Expenditure (ORE): Reimbursement of investigation-related costs shall be processed as per Circular no. 6873-6973/Actt/PHQ (Misc.) dated 12.9.2025

13.2 Proper records of expenditure shall be maintained for audit and accountability purposes.

14. Duties and Responsibilities

14.1 The Duty Officer shall ensure for day-to-day custodial care, including food, water, hygiene, bedding, and general welfare of detainees.

14.2 The SHO shall be responsible for overall compliance with this Standing Order and shall promptly rectify deficiencies.

14.3 Night Gazetted Officers shall verify custodial facilities during night inspections and record compliance.

14.4 Inspecting officers shall treat custodial facilities as a mandatory component of formal inspections.

15. Documentation and Record Maintenance

15.1 All inspections, provision of diet, medical care, special arrangements, and deficiencies shall be recorded in the relevant registers.

16. Training and Sensitisation

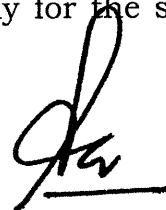
16.1 Custodial care, humane and dignified treatment of detainees, and basic human rights shall form an integral part of the basic training of all police recruits.

16.2 Periodic in-service training, refresher courses, and sensitisation programmes shall be conducted for serving personnel, with emphasis on constitutional safeguards, custodial ethics, and legal responsibilities.

16.3 Training modules shall include case studies, judicial pronouncements, and best practices relating to custodial care.

17. Disclaimer

It is made clear that this Standing Order is intended solely for the smooth internal functioning of the Police Department.



**(SATISH GOLCHHA),
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
DELHI.**

No. 151-300/Record Branch/PHQ, Dated Delhi, the 13/02/2026.

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