

## Police Punching A Suspect That Is Handcuffed And Pinned To The Ground

I asked Google AI: What crimes is a police officer engaging in when he punches a suspect that is handcuffed and pinned to the ground? This was the response:"

Steven Magee – Author of [Police Corruption Researcher](#)

A police officer punching a handcuffed suspect who is pinned to the ground is likely engaging in several serious crimes related to the use of excessive force.

Here's a breakdown of potential criminal charges and related concepts:

### 1. Assault and battery

Punching someone constitutes physical contact and harm, which is the definition of battery in most jurisdictions.

It might also be considered aggravated assault or battery if the officer intended to cause serious bodily injury or used a dangerous weapon, like their fists, in a way that could cause serious harm.

### 2. Excessive force

Law enforcement officers are only permitted to use a reasonable amount of force to control a situation or make an arrest.

When a suspect is already handcuffed and pinned, they are generally not considered to be actively resisting or posing an imminent threat.

Therefore, punching them would likely be deemed an excessive and unnecessary use of force, according to Nolo.

Federal law prohibits officers from violating a person's civil rights while acting under the color of law, which includes excessive force.

### 3. Potential federal charges

Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 241 and 242 make it a crime for a person acting under color of law to deprive someone of their constitutional rights.

This includes the right to be free from excessive force.

Violations can lead to fines and/or imprisonment.

### 4. Other possible crimes

Depending on the severity of the injuries, an officer could face charges ranging from simple assault to manslaughter or murder.

In essence, punching a handcuffed and restrained suspect is a serious breach of law and policy that can result in an officer facing significant criminal charges at both the state and federal levels.

When Can Federal Prosecutors Charge Police With Civil Rights Violations? Law enforcement and other officials can face criminal charges for depriving people of their civil rights, including the right to be free from excessive force.

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/when-can-federal-prosecutors-charge-police-with-civil-rights-violations.html>