

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

NUMBER: 1103

SUBJECT: Contaminated Laundry

ACA STANDARDS: None

DIRECTOR: Herbert Bernsen

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/92 REVISION DATE: 9/97, 3/00, 1/02, 10/08,
3/10, 12/15



I. POLICY

The St. Louis County Department of Justice Services shall be responsible for the laundering and disposal of all contaminated and/or vermin infested clothing and linens.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

All St. Louis County Department of Justice Services' staff are responsible for the following procedures.

III. DEFINITIONS

Body Fluids: Defined as, but not limited to: blood, mucous, vomit, saliva, urine and feces

Contaminated: Any article of clothing or linen soiled or stained by body fluids.

Vermin: Fleas, lice, crabs, scabies, etc.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. All staff who come in contact with or handle contaminated or vermin infested laundry shall wear protective gloves and other protective equipment, if needed.

- B. Red Bio-hazard bags shall be placed in all locations throughout the facility, such as; Unit Control, Housing Unit, Health Care Clinic, Infirmary, Transportation Staging, Intake Service Center, for contaminated laundry which is bio-hazardous only. Clear biodegradable bags are located at Unit Controls, Health Care Clinic, Infirmary and Facility Property Room for laundry infested with vermin. Bio-hazard bags and biodegradable bags are also stored in the Watch Commanders' office.
- C. All employees and inmate workers handling laundry contaminated with bodily fluids shall use personal protective equipment. This contaminated laundry will be handled as little as possible.
- D. Laundry contaminated with feces or large amounts of blood, along with gloves and other protective equipment will be placed in red biohazard plastic bags at the location it was contaminated. The gloves used to place the laundry in the bag will be placed in the bag. A second pair of gloves will be worn and the bag will be sealed, tagged and immediately removed to the Infirmary or Health Care Clinic and placed in the proper biohazard container. After placing the red biohazard bag in the proper biohazard container the employee or inmate worker will place the second pair of gloves in the container with the red biohazard bag and wash their hands and any other potentially contaminated skin area immediately with soap and water.
- E. Laundry items contaminated with urine, small amounts of blood and other bodily fluids will first, if feasible, be rinsed by the inmate. These items will then be placed into clear plastic trash bags (Not the biodegradable bags).
- F. Vermin infested laundry shall be bagged in the clear biodegradable bags, tagged and tied air-tight at the location of its use.
- G. Vermin infested laundry collected from housing units and other areas shall be immediately transported to the Infirmary Soiled Linen room and placed in the laundry cart to be laundered. Gloves and other protective gear will be placed in a trash container immediately after transporting the items to the Infirmary Soiled Linen room.

H. Bags will be tagged with a toe tag providing the following information:

1. Floor/ Housing Unit
2. Officer's initials
3. Contaminant (e.g., blood, urine, etc.)

When the bag has been properly sealed and tagged, it will be taken immediately to the Infirmary Soiled Linen room and placed in the appropriate container.

NOTE: Area supervisors will ensure that all bags containing contaminated laundry are properly tagged prior to the bag departing the area.

- I. The Laundry Officer shall direct the laundering or disposal of the vermin infested or contaminated laundry and ensure that all handling and safety procedures are followed. This laundry will be washed in hot water (120 degrees F and dried on hot heat.)
- J. Special types of disinfectants or other substances may be used to clean various types of vermin infested articles.
- K. Disposal of other contaminated laundry shall be determined by the Correction medical staff.