

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

NUMBER: 1801

SUBJECT: Inmate Rights

ACA STANDARDS: 4-ALDF-6A-01, 07, 08; 6B-02

DIRECTOR: Herbert Bernsen

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/97 REVISION DATE: 8/99, 8/06, 11/13



I. POLICY

The St. Louis County Department of Justice Services shall protect the statutory and Constitutional rights of inmates, and allow for the exercising of these rights to the fullest extent possible while still maintaining facility order.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

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

III. PROCEDURES

A. Protection From Harm

1. All inmates housed in the facility shall be provided a safe, secure environment with protection from:
 - a. Personal abuse
 - b. Corporal punishment
 - c. Disease
 - d. Personal property damage
 - e. Harassment

f. Discrimination

g. Personal Injury.

- 2.** Inmates shall not be segregated or discriminated against based upon race, sex, age, national origin, handicap, political beliefs or religion. No inmate shall be given authority over another.

B. Communications and Visitation

- 1.** Communications and visitation is restricted only by the facility's need to ensure the safety and security of the staff and inmates.
- 2.** All inmates shall have the right to correspond via the U.S. Mail Service.
- 3.** All inmates shall be permitted visitation with their attorneys and their authorized representatives.
- 4.** All inmates shall have access to the courts and uncensored communication with legal authorities.
 - a.** Inmates have the right to legal materials, (i.e., law books, typewriters or typing service, paper, etc.).
 - b.** Inmates seeking judicial or administrative relief shall not be subjected to reprisals or penalties.
- 5.** All inmates shall have the right to communicate with the media via phone or correspondence.

C. Programs and Services

- 1.** Program access, work assignments and administrative decisions are made without regard to an inmate's race, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or political views.
- 2.** Male and female inmates are provided separate sleeping quarters but equal access to all available services and programs. Neither sex is denied opportunities solely on the basis of their smaller numbers in the population.
- 3.** All inmates shall have the opportunity to participate and practice their religious faith. This may be limited only when documentation

determines there could be a possible threat to the safety of staff or inmates.

4. All inmates shall be provided with medical and dental care as determined by competent Corrections Medicine staff.

D. Searches

1. Inmates shall not be subjected to unreasonable searches of their person or personal property.
2. Searches directed at solving a possible new crime should include provisions for the preservation of evidence as well as the legal protection of individual rights.

E. Personal Grooming

1. All inmates are allowed freedom in personal grooming except when personal hygiene is not maintained and a valid interest justifies otherwise.
2. All regulations concerning personal grooming should be the least restrictive necessary.

F. Grievance Procedures

1. All inmates have the access to a written grievance procedure and it shall include at least one (1) level of appeal.
2. Inmates shall not be subjected to reprisals or penalties for submitting a grievance.