

 Good Life. Great Mission. DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES	POLICY		
	INMATE RULES and DISCIPLINE		
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STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY *This Policy is to be made available in law libraries or other inmate resource centers.			

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 1989
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SUMMARY of REVISION/REVIEW

Incorporated PD 019-005 into Procedure VI, adding section D. Added Attachment B.

APPROVED:



Scott R. Frakes, Director
 Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

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PURPOSE

To provide a written set of rules governing inmate conduct, establish penalties for violation of such rules, and establish disciplinary procedures (4-4227).

GENERAL

It is an objective of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) to maintain a safe, secure, and humane environment for inmates, staff and the public. In furtherance of this objective, the Department shall promulgate a set of rules governing inmate conduct which shall be called the Code of Offenses. The Code of Offenses is promulgated as Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 5 which is herewith incorporated into this Policy by reference (4-4226).

Disciplinary procedures and the range of penalties are promulgated as Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 6, which is herewith incorporated into this Policy by reference (4-4226).

The Work Ethic Camp (WEC), with its population of probation offenders, will develop rules and consequences consistent with the intent of this Policy. The sentencing District Court maintains jurisdiction over the probationers and is ultimately responsible for due process and sanctions, which may include revocation of probation. Inmates at WEC shall follow Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 5 and 6.

PROCEDURES

I. ANNUAL REVIEW

Both Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 5 and 6 and this Policy shall be reviewed annually and updated if necessary (4-4226, 4-4227).

II. AVAILABILITY OF RULEBOOK

Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 5 and 6 which contain all chargeable offenses, ranges of penalties and disciplinary procedures, shall be given to each inmate and staff member. Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 5 and 6 shall be translated into those languages spoken by significant numbers of inmates. Signed acknowledgement of receipt of the rulebook shall be maintained in the inmate's file. When a literacy or language problem prevents an inmate from understanding the rulebook, a staff member or translator shall assist the inmate in understanding the rules and this action shall be documented in the inmate's institutional file. Visually impaired inmates will have access to an audiotape of Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 5 and 6 (4-4228).

III. STAFF TRAINING

Personnel working with inmates shall receive training in the Code of Offenses, the rationale for these rules, and the sanctions available (4-4229).

IV. INFORMAL RESOLUTION

Often inmate misbehavior can be handled informally. The employee observing the misbehavior will decide if the misbehavior is best handled by writing an incident report, writing a warning log entry and/or discussing the misbehavior with the inmate informally. The employee should consult

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with the supervisor as needed. If a misconduct report is not written, it is advisable to write an incident report.

V. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

- A. Each institution shall have an Institutional Disciplinary Committee (IDC). IDC shall hear major inmate infractions. "Major inmate infractions" are those infractions that are likely to result in the loss of good time.
- B. Each institution shall have Unit Disciplinary Committee(s) (UDC). UDC shall hear minor inmate infractions. "Minor inmate infractions" are those infractions that are not likely to result in the loss of good time (4-4230).
- C. As part of the investigatory hearing, [see below (VI.C.)], the Warden's designee(s) shall refer cases of inmate infractions to either IDC or UDC as follows:
 1. Review the report and determine the offense(s) allegedly committed.
 2. Determine whether the hearing on the report shall be conducted by the IDC or the UDC.
 - a. Factors to be considered to determine whether alleged offenses are minor inmate infractions to be heard by the UDC or major inmate infractions to be heard by IDC include but are not limited to the inmate's disciplinary history, the nature of the alleged offense(s) and the likelihood loss of good time being imposed.
 - b. Each Warden will develop guidelines for his/her facility to assist the Warden's designee in determining which inmate infractions will be handled by the UDC and which by the IDC.

VI. REPORT AND INVESTIGATION (IDC AND UDC)

- A. If an employee witnesses or has a reasonable belief that an infraction of the Code of Offenses has been committed by an inmate, the employee shall prepare a written report (4-4230, 4-4232). The report shall be filed with the Warden or designee, within 72 hours of the occurrence of the infraction or the discovery of it. The point of discovery of a drug violation based on a laboratory drug test is when the result of the laboratory test is received by the facility's designated staff member (4-4232). The report shall be placed in the files of the facility and logged in the facility records. The report shall be logged within 24 hours after the report is filed, which commences the investigation (4-4234).

Misconduct reports shall not be issued for self-harm/suicide attempts.

- B. After a misconduct report (MR) is logged, an appropriate investigation will be completed without unreasonable delay, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any exceptional circumstances shall be documented (4-4234).
- C. An investigatory hearing provided for in Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 6 shall be held regardless of whether the disciplinary matter will be assigned to UDC or

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IDC. The inmate shall be notified by the Warden's designee whether the case will be heard by the UDC or IDC.

D. Identification of Confiscated Medications

1. The evidence custodian/designee will take all confiscated medications needing identification and photograph each pill (both sides), ensuring that each photo is clearly visible for identification purposes.
2. The Identification of Confiscated Medication form (DCS-A-adm-062-pc, Attachment B) will be completed for each medication confiscated.
3. The photo and corresponding form for each confiscated medication will be scanned to a PDF and e-mailed to the "DCS Pharmacy" group within three (3) working days of being placed into evidence.
4. Assigned staff at the NDCS Pharmacy will review and provide the completed form(s) back to the respective facility evidence custodian/designee within three (3) business days of receipt.

VII. HEARING PROCEDURES FOR UDC

After the investigatory hearing, cases assigned to UDC shall follow these rules:

- A. The UDC hearing shall be held within seven days, excluding weekends and holidays, after the occurrence or discovery of an infraction (4-4230, 4-4238).
- B. The person conducting the UDC hearing may grant a continuance of the UDC hearing for good cause shown for a reasonable period of time (4-4239).
- C. The person conducting the UDC hearing shall not have first-hand knowledge of the rule violation (4-4230, 4-4240).
- D. The inmate has a right to 24 hour notice of the UDC hearing and a right to be present at that hearing. The inmate may waive either or both of these rights (4-4230, 4-4237, 4-4238).
- E. The Chair Person may decide to allow and appoint a representative(s) when it is apparent that an inmate is not capable of collecting and presenting evidence effectively on his or her own behalf (4-4243).
- F. No witnesses, including the reporting employee, are permitted at the UDC hearing.
- G. The UDC decision shall be in writing. A copy of the UDC decision shall be given to the inmate.
- H. The Warden or designee shall review and approve UDC decisions to assure conformity with policy and regulations (4-4247). The Warden or designee may modify or decrease sanctions imposed by the UDC, but may not increase the severity of the sanctions.

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- I. If the Warden or designee reverses the UDC decision, the Warden/designee will state a reason for his/her action and insure that records of the disciplinary action are removed from the inmate's record.
- J. UDC decisions cannot be appealed to a NDCS Appeals Board. However, inmates may request a Central Office review of a UDC decision if that decision disqualifies them for sentence reduction available under Neb. Rev. Stat. §83-1,107(2)(b). That statute states in part: the department shall reduce the term of a committed offender by three days on the first day of each month following a 12 month period of incarceration within the department during which the offender has not been found guilty of any Class I or Class II offenses or more than three Class III offense under NDCS disciplinary code.

The inmate must initiate a Central Office review of a UDC decision within 15 days of the date of the decision by sending an Inmate Interview Request (IIR) form to the facility Records Manager. The inmate shall indicate in the IIR a desire to have the identified misconduct report undergo the Central Office review. The facility Records Manager will verify that the decision proposed for review is the fourth UDC decision regarding a Class III offense and would prevent a three day sentence reduction (provided there have been no Class I or Class II misconduct reports). If eligible, the facility Records Manager will forward the IIR and a legible copy of the UDC action to the Central Office Corrections Programs Administrator within six days and provide written response to the inmate that the request was forwarded. If the UDC decision is not eligible for review, the request will be returned to the inmate with explanation of same. The Central Office Corrections Programs Administrator will consider the record of the UDC decision being reviewed and determine if the original decision should stand, and will advise the inmate of same within 15 days of the receipt of the request.

VIII. HEARING PROCEDURES FOR IDC

A. SCHEDULING/NOTIFICATION

Inmates charged with a rule violation referred to IDC shall be scheduled for a hearing as soon as practicable, but no later than seven working days (excluding holidays and weekends) after the alleged violation. Inmates shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing at least 24 hours before the hearing (4-4238).

B. WAIVERS

The inmate may waive or consent to the denial of any of the procedures mentioned in Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 6 but only if such waiver is voluntarily made. Waivers and consents shall be reduced to writing and reviewed by the Warden or designee (4-4237).

C. REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTS, REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR WITNESSES

Requests for documents, representatives and/or witnesses to appear at a disciplinary hearing must be made at the time of the Investigating Officer's hearing, or must be in writing and received by appropriate staff at least 24 hours in advance of the disciplinary hearing (4-4242). If a timely request is not made, the requested documents, representatives and/or witnesses may be denied. Witnesses from outside the facility may not be present. An inmate may obtain a written statement from a witness from

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outside the facility who has relevant knowledge of the incident. The inmate requesting the statement is responsible for obtaining any such statement in time for the scheduled hearing.

If a requested statement is from an inmate in another NDCS facility, such statement will be requested by and sent to the Disciplinary Committee Coordinator. Failure to receive a requested statement does not require a continuance.

D. WARDEN'S REVIEW

The Warden or designee shall review and approve IDC decisions to assure conformity with policy and regulations (4-4247). The Warden or designee may modify or decrease sanctions imposed by the IDC, but may not increase the severity of the sanctions.

IX. SANCTIONS (IDC AND UDC)

A. Neither the IDC nor the UDC shall impose changes in work, education or other program assignments as disciplinary sanctions. Actions of this nature are administratively decided by classification teams.

B. IDC may impose any of the sanctions set forth in Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 6, except for disciplinary segregation (discontinued as an approved sanction as of July 10, 2016). Loss of Good time may be imposed if the committee finds the violation to be serious or flagrant. Flagrant or serious misconduct shall include: (1) Major disruption to the operation of the institution; (2) Threats to the safety or security of the institution, public visitors, staff and/or other inmates; (3) Violence; (4) Substantial destruction of property; (5) Escape or attempted escape; or (6) Repeated violations of the same offense in the past 12 months.

C. UDC may impose the sanctions of:

1. A verbal reprimand.
2. A written warning.
3. Extra duty without pay for up to 20 hours.
4. Room restriction of up to 21 days.
5. Restrictions from any correctional activities, except the recognized worship activity for his/her religious faith group, dining hall, designated group or individual therapy and school for a period of time not to exceed 21 days for all violations arising out of one incident. Restrictions on clothing, bedding, mail, visitation, use of toilets, washbowls, scheduled showers or facilities and materials needed for access to the courts shall be imposed only for abuse of such privileges or facilities.
6. Restitution of up to \$100.00 (See Rule 6.012.04).

D. When an inmate is on IDC room restriction, the inmate shall not attend his/her institutional work assignment.

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- E. When an inmate is on UDC room restriction, the inmate shall attend his/her institutional work assignment.
- F. Inmates on room restriction shall be afforded at least 24 hours of out of cell time within a seven day period.
- G. When imposing extra duty or room restriction the IDC and the UDC shall specifically state the number of hours of extra duty and/or the number of days the inmate shall be on room restriction.
- H. When imposing the loss of good time, the IDC shall specifically state the amount of good time being taken.
- I. The IDC and the UDC shall impose disciplinary sanctions in a progressive manner as appropriate.

X. DECISION AND DOCUMENTATION (IDC AND UDC)

- A. The decisions of the IDC or UDC shall be based solely on information obtained in the hearing process (4-4244).
- B. The proceedings before the IDC shall be digitally recorded and that recording shall be retained by the institution for at least two years. Hearings before UDC need not be recorded (4-4240).
- C. A written record of the decision of the IDC or UDC and the supporting reasons shall be made and a copy given to the inmate. For MR's processed on paper, the written record of the hearing and supporting documents are to be kept in the inmate file. For MR's processed via the Nebraska Inmate Case Management System (NICaMS), the Misconduct Report Routing System (MRRS) application will store electronic records in lieu of paper ones (4-4245).
- D. If an IDC, UDC or an appellate body dismisses or reverses all charges on a misconduct report, all records of the disciplinary action will be removed from the inmate's file (4-4246). When an inmate is found guilty of only some of the rule violations he or she was originally charged with, the disciplinary record must show which charges were dismissed. This provision includes misconduct reports dismissed at UDC or IDC, by the Warden or designee, or overturned on appeal by the NDCS Appeals Board or the District Court.

XI. RIGHTS OF APPEAL (IDC ONLY)

A. NDCS APPEALS BOARD

Inmates found guilty of offenses by IDC shall be informed of their right to appeal the decisions to the DCS Appeals Board (4-4248). These procedures are outlined in Title 68, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 6, Inmate Disciplinary Procedures, of the Inmate Rules and Regulations Book.

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B. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT

If an IDC imposes a loss of good time as a sanction, the inmate has the right to appeal the action to the State District Court under the Nebraska Administrative Procedures Act (APA). If the inmate chooses to appeal under the APA, he or she may file a petition in State District Court within 30 days after the service of the Department Appeals Board's final decision.

C. EMPLOYEE SUMMONS/NOTIFICATION

A summons will be served on the defendants after the filing of the petition. Any Department employee who receives such summons shall immediately notify the litigation contact person for the institution, who shall immediately notify the Department's Appeals Board staff.

D. CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPTS

When ordered by the Nebraska Department of Justice, a certified transcript of the disciplinary record reviewed by the Appeals Board and a transcript of the digitally recorded hearing will be transmitted to the court by the Appeals Board staff within 30 days after the service of the summons in a procedure under the APA. The Assistant Attorney General assigned to the appeal will be notified promptly by the Appeals Board staff of any need for an extension of these time limits so that additional time may be requested from the court.

XII. Intoxicant

For purposes of inmate discipline, intoxicant means any substance whose purpose is to induce a condition of intoxication, stupefaction, depression, giddiness, paralysis, inebriation, excitement or irrational behavior or in any manner change, distort or disturb the auditory, visual mental or nervous processes.

REFERENCE

I. ATTACHMENT:

- A. NE Dept. of Corr. Inmate Waiver-Disciplinary Committee
- B. Identification of Confiscated Medications (DCS-A-adm-062-pc)

II. AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION (ACA) STANDARDS

- A. Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) (4th edition): 4-4226, 4-4227, 4-4228, 4-4229, 4-4230, 4-4231, 4-4232, 4-4233, 4-4234, 4-4235, 4-4236, 4-4237, 4-4238, 4-4239, 4-4240, 4-4241, 4-4242, 4-4243, 4-4244, 4-4246, 4-4247, 4-4248, 4-4255.
- B. Performance Based Standards for Adult Community Residential Services (ACRS) (4th edition): 4-ACRS-3A-01, 4-ACRS-3A-02, 4-ACRS-3A-04, 4-ACRS-6C-01, 4-ACRS-6C-02, 4-ACRS-6C-03, 4-ACRS-6C-04