



Department of  
Rehabilitation & Correction

SUBJECT: <b>Female Inmate Programs and Services</b>	PAGE <u> 1 </u> OF <u> 3 </u>
	NUMBER: <b>71-SOC-04</b>
RULE/CODE REFERENCE:	SUPERSEDES: 71-SOC-04 dated 06/20/09
RELATED ACA STANDARDS: 4-4353-1, 4-4436	EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>July 9, 2018</b>
	APPROVED: 

## I. AUTHORITY

Ohio Revised Code 5120.01 authorizes the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, as the executive head of the department, to direct the total operations and management of the department by establishing procedures as set forth in this policy.

## II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to develop and implement standards regarding programs and services to meet the unique needs of female inmates.

## III. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) employees, independent contractors, and inmates working or assigned to correctional institutions that house females.

## IV. DEFINITIONS

None

## V. POLICY

It is the policy of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) to ensure that correction facilities housing females shall maintain gender specific programs and services that address special needs of female inmates.

**VI. PROCEDURES****A. Inmate Programs**

1. Female institutions shall provide education and counseling services to address issues specific to the female inmate (i.e., domestic violence, sexual abuse, ~~and~~ family planning, etc.).
2. Female institutions shall provide parent education programming specifically designed to enhance parenting skills, address child welfare issues and assist the inmate in developing family reunification plans prior to release.
3. Female institutions shall provide health promotion programs, information, services or workshops, which address the health issues of the female population, such as smoking cessation, self-breast examination, weight control, and hypertension/stress management.
4. Pre-natal programming, information, services or workshops will be provided for all pregnant inmates.
5. A mother-infant residential parenting program will be available for eligible inmate mothers serving short sentences so that they can maintain custody of infants born during their incarceration. This program shall be assigned by qualified persons, with whom the infants are placed when they are not in the care of their mothers. Qualified persons may include inmates who are trained in the competencies required for nursery care and who are working under appropriate supervision.
6. Institutions housing pregnant inmates shall provide support services such as pregnancy testing, routine prenatal care, high risk prenatal care, management of the chemically addicted pregnant inmate, placement planning, prenatal education, parent education and post-partum depression counseling. Unless mandated by state law, the birth certificates/registry shall not list a correctional facility as a birth place. Written policy, procedure and practice implies that pregnant inmates shall be physically restrained only to prevent substantial bodily harm to self or others, substantial property damage, or creation of a substantial security risk. The minimal amount of restraint application necessary to prevent a security breach shall be utilized. All deviations from policy requires approval by a medical authority based on serious security risks. (Reference 310-SEC-03, Inmate Transportation.)
7. Inmates, upon their request, shall be provided information regarding pregnancy options, which include abortion and adoption.
8. Female institution release preparation programs shall provide information regarding sexually transmitted diseases, birth control information, family reunification planning, and information about the Department of Children's Services if appropriate.
9. Substance abuse programming should recognize and address dynamics that are specific to women, such as effects of drugs and alcohol on the fetus, psychodynamics' of dependency issues, effect of addiction on the family, etc.

10. When possible, institutions housing female inmates shall provide education, training, and work opportunities in occupations which are not traditionally female, i.e., building maintenance, carpentry, auto repair, farm crew, etc.

**B. Institution Services**

1. Commissary - Female gender specific hygiene items shall be available in the commissary. The commissary shall also provide appropriate cosmetic items in order to maintain good grooming.
2. Visiting - In addition to the routine institution visiting program, as outlined in Administrative Rule 5120-9-15, female institutions are encouraged to provide alternative visiting programs which shall promote mother/child bonding and facilitate the maintenance of the family structure.
3. Recreation - Recreation shall include those activities that are of specific interest to the female offenders.
4. Inmate Services - The institution shall provide, but not limited to, substance abuse, mental health, sex offender programming, anger management, parenting classes, support groups, GED or education programs, financial management, assistance of employment and job training programs, clothing, and other social service options.

**C. Prison Rape Elimination Act**

1. All staff of the opposite gender, whether assigned to the unit or not, shall announce themselves by stating, "Male/Female in housing unit." If PREA buzzers are installed, they shall be used instead of the verbal announcement.
2. The institution shall not conduct cross gender strip searches, or cross gender visual body cavity searches except in exigent circumstances or when performed by medical practitioners. Cross gender strip searches, cross gender visual body cavity searches and cross gender pat down searches shall be documented on an Incident Report (DRC1000). Reference DRC Policy 79-ISA-01 for further information on Prison Rape Elimination.

**Related Department Forms:**

Incident Report                      DRC1000