



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

October 8, 2020

TO: All Superintendents
FROM: *Miller* *Ronna Cole*
Arminda Miller and Ronna Cole
Prisons/Health Services Incident Commanders
SUBJECT: Safe Start Marriages

In an effort to provide opportunities for incarcerated individuals and their loved ones to pursue their desire to marry, headquarters program personnel, Prisons/Health Services Unified Command, and your local site representatives have developed a consistent process for marriages across the state.

The first marriage ceremony occurred recently at the [Monroe Correctional Complex \(MCC\)](#). This allowed us to identify any additional details to be adjusted for the best experience possible under social distancing directives. This first event went very well with participants complying with the required social distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and security protocols.

We've sent an ICS 204 template to your leadership to provide the process with a few adjustments based on physical plant at each location. Your designated staff may now begin to schedule ceremonies following policy expectations. The Religious Coordinators at each facility are the designated liaisons once the marriage packet has been processed through the Facility Risk Management Team and approved by the appropriate administrator. However, it is still important to ensure that your local ICP receives a copy of the plan in order to review any local processes that must be added with final approval from the Incident Commander.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please reach out to Lisa Flynn, Correctional Program Administrator, so we maintain consistent processes across the state and ensure safety protocols to protect staff, visitors and incarcerated individuals.