



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY
PRISON
OFFENDER/SPANISH MANUALS

REVISION DATE
8/13/21

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NUMBER
DOC 470.540

POLICY

TITLE
GROUP VIOLENCE REDUCTION STRATEGY

REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY:

Effective: 12/1/12
 Revised: 2/1/14
 Revised: 3/1/15
 Revised: 3/30/16
 Revised: 8/13/21

SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW:

Major changes to include updating terminology throughout. Read carefully!

APPROVED:

Signature on file

CHERYL STRANGE, Secretary
 Department of Corrections

7/9/21

 Date Signed



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REFERENCES:

DOC 100.100 is hereby incorporated into this policy; DOC 310.000 Orientation; DOC 420.155 Offender Movement; DOC 420.320 Searches of Facilities; DOC 460.000 Disciplinary Process for Prisons

POLICY:

- I. The Department has established an evidence-based Group Violence Reduction Strategy to deter incarcerated individuals from committing violent acts by imposing privilege restrictions on perpetrators and their close associates.
 - A. Perpetrators are incarcerated individuals directly present in and willfully committing a prohibited violent act.
 - B. Close associates are incarcerated individuals known to interact with a perpetrator on a regular basis, whose interaction has the potential to negatively influence the perpetrator's behavior.
- II. This policy only applies to the Washington State Penitentiary in the west complex close custody units and Clallam Bay Corrections Center.

DIRECTIVE:

- I. General Requirements
 - A. The following prohibited violent acts may be subject to restrictions:
 - 1. Fight/assault where a weapon is used or visibly present
 - 2. Fight/assault involving 3 or more incarcerated individuals
 - 3. Causing or attempting to cause bodily injury to a Department employee, contract staff, or volunteer
 - B. Restrictions will only be applied to incarcerated individuals identified as perpetrators and their identified negative close associates.
- II. Group Violence Reduction Committee
 - A. Facilities will establish a Group Violence Reduction Committee to provide strategic oversight and assist with the response to prohibited violent acts.
 - B. Committee participation will be multidisciplinary and include, at a minimum:
 - 1. Subject matter expert on the Group Violence Reduction Strategy,
 - 2. Correctional Program Manager/designee,



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3. Captain/designee,
4. Intelligence and Investigations Unit (IIU) Lead/designee, and
5. Persons identified by the Superintendent.

III. Notification

- A. Incarcerated individuals will be notified in writing of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy during orientation per DOC 310.000 Orientation.
- B. The Superintendent/designee will facilitate meetings to notify incarcerated individuals of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy, and:
 1. Ensure meetings are held at least every 12 months.
 2. Assemble a panel of Group Violence Reduction Strategy partners to address incarcerated individuals during the meeting, including:
 - a. A multidisciplinary team comprised of, at a minimum, Department employees from the Group Violence Reduction Committee, custody, classification, programs, and visitation.
 - b. Community members selected for their influence and credibility with incarcerated individuals from at least 2 of the following categories:
 - 1) Broad Influence - Has a high level of influence and credibility, regardless of community ties or relevance
 - 2) Intermediate Influence - Has a close tie to the incarcerated individuals' larger external communities
 - 3) Specific Influence - Has a close relationship to an incarcerated individual
 3. Instruct each Group Violence Reduction Strategy partner to adhere to a respectful and non-threatening message during the meeting.
 - a. Department employees will explain the violent acts subject to restrictions, specific restrictions, criteria for identifying the perpetrator and/or close associates, and assistance available.
 - 1) Assistance (i.e., programming and job opportunities) will be made available to help incarcerated individuals succeed in prosocial alternatives to violence.



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- b. Community members will express prosocial community values, reject violence, reinforce positive community standards, and encourage incarcerated individuals to seek assistance.

IV. Response to Prohibited Violent Acts

- A. In the event of a prohibited violent act, the units where the involved individuals are housed will be immediately placed on lockdown or restricted movement per DOC 420.155 Offender Movement.
- B. The Shift Commander will initiate the Group Violence Reduction Strategy Response Checklist (Attachment 2) and ensure the following occur within 36 hours of the incident, unless an extension, exception, or exemption is approved by the Assistant Secretary for Prisons:
 1. Identification of Perpetrators
 - a. The IIU Investigator and at least one member from the Group Violence Reduction Committee member(s) will respond to the incident to identify individuals involved and perpetrators.
 - b. Group Violence Reduction Strategy Perpetrator Matrix (Attachment 1) provides additional information on identifying perpetrators in fights/assaults involving 3 or more incarcerated individuals.
 2. Identification of Associates
 - a. The IIU Investigator and Group Violence Reduction Committee member(s) will assemble a team of custody and classification employees from the units where the involved individuals are housed. Multiple shifts will be represented.
 - b. Each team member will complete a separate DOC 21-611 Associate List for each identified perpetrator.
 3. Determination of Close Associates
 - a. For each perpetrator, the IIU Investigator and Group Violence Reduction Committee member(s) will:
 - 1) Review any completed DOC 21-611 Associate List to determine the perpetrator's close associates, and



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- a) Close associates will be determined based on identification as an associate on multiple team members' lists.
 - 2) Compile a list of close associates using DOC 21-616 Close Associate Recommendation and submit to the Superintendent/designee or Shift Commander for review.
 - 4. Application of Restrictions
 - a. For each perpetrator, the Superintendent/designee or Shift Commander will:
 - 1) Review the recommendation and determine the close associates to include for restrictions.
 - a) Approval from the Assistant Secretary for Prisons will be required to impose restrictions on more than 9 close associates for any one perpetrator.
 - 2) Select restrictions from the Group Violence Reduction Strategy Restrictions Grid (Attachment 3) to impose on the perpetrator and close associates.
 - 3) Notify the perpetrator and close associates of the restrictions imposed using DOC 21-548 Notification of Restrictions.
 - a) The same restrictions will be imposed on the perpetrator and all close associates. No more than 6 restrictions will be imposed for each incident.
 - C. Restrictions will begin before the facility returns to new normal operations and remain in effect for 30 days. Restrictions will be applied in addition to any sanctions imposed through the disciplinary process per DOC 460.000 Disciplinary Process for Prisons.
 - D. At the time the restrictions begin, cell searches will be initiated for perpetrators and close associates per DOC 420.320 Searches of Facilities.
 - E. The Group Violence Reduction Committee will:
 - 1. Maintain and distribute a restrictions list to unit and program employees identifying the perpetrators and close associates, restrictions imposed, and beginning and end dates of the 30 day restriction period.



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2. Document the restrictions as a chronological entry in each incarcerated individual's electronic file.

V. Extensions, Exceptions, and Exemptions

A. If the Assistant Secretary for Prisons approves an extension of the 36 hour time limit to complete the response or an exception/exemption to the response process, the Group Violence Reduction Committee will:

1. Notify the Command A Deputy Director, who will review the incident and application of policy.
2. If applicable, verbally notify individuals involved in the prohibited violent act of the reasons for the exception/exemption and reinforce non-violent messages.

B. The Superintendent/designee may approve a one-time 24 hour extension. Additional extensions require Assistant Secretary for Prisons approval.

VI. Post-Response Review

A. Within 2 business days of return to new normal operations, the Group Violence Reduction Committee will meet to debrief the response and provide information.

1. Responding employees from the Committee and IIU will meet with the Group Violence Reduction Committee to debrief the incident and response.
2. The Group Violence Reduction Committee will verbally notify individuals housed in the impacted units of the reasons for restrictions and reinforce non-violent messages. Others will be notified when applicable.

B. Within 10 business days of return to new normal operations, the Superintendent/designee will submit the completed Group Violence Reduction Strategy Response Checklist (Attachment 2) and completed documentation to the Command A Deputy Director.

C. The Command A Deputy Director will evaluate each facility's post-response reviews and discuss them with the Superintendent on a quarterly basis.

DEFINITIONS:

Words/terms appearing in this policy may be defined in the glossary section of the Policy Manual.



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ATTACHMENTS:

- Group Violence Reduction Strategy Perpetrator Matrix (Attachment 1)
- Group Violence Reduction Strategy Response Checklist (Attachment 2)
- Group Violence Reduction Strategy Restrictions Grid (Attachment 3)

DOC FORMS:

- DOC 21-548 Notification of Restrictions
- DOC 21-611 Associate List
- DOC 21-616 Close Associate Recommendation