

Statewide Family Council EFV Overview

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Washington State's EFV Program

- The first Policy for EFV was dated 1/25/1990 though it is believed that the program was in existence prior to DOC splitting from DSHS in 1981.
- In January of 1995, there was an incident in an EFV at Clallam Bay. A visitor was taken hostage at knife point by her husband. Ultimately, the I/I was disarmed and the hostage released. The incident caused a thorough review by law makers. Law makers initially wanted to shut down the program completely, but the Department created a new policy in hopes that law makers would allow the program to continue. This led to the creation of RCW 72.09.015 and the implementation of the updated policy with the caveat that should any changes be made to the policy, the changes must be provided by legislative committees prior to implementation. RCW 72.09.490—the committees are currently Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation Committee, House Community Safety Committee, Senate Law and Justice Committee. At one point, the joint committee on corrections cost-efficiencies oversight were also included, but that committee no longer exists.
 - This incident shut the EFV program down across the state. Different facilities resumed their programs slowly with CBCC being the last facility to resume EFV in 2009.
- 2/13/1995 the new policy was published; one significant difference from that policy and a future revision was that the 1995 version precluded spouses who married post incarceration. In 2009, that was updated to allow individuals married post-incarceration (the policy required wait times longer than what is in place today for those married post incarceration). Eventually the wait period was dropped to one year after date of marriage if married during the period of incarceration.
- In 2009, policy was updated to require individuals who had serious violent crimes to be reviewed by a Deputy Director (this was a predecessor to the EFV Review Committee).
- In 2013, the policy was updated to include the newly formed EFV Review Committee (EFVRC) and expanded to review not only serious violent offenses but also sex offenses. The development of EFVRC allowed for a multidisciplinary collaborative approach to reviewing EFV requests for I/Is with serious violent or sex offenses.
- Except for Mission Creek, all facilities have EFV Units. MCCCW participants are sent to WCCW for participation in an EFV.

What is the process for a new visit request to move through approval? Denial? Who makes the call?

590.100 Extended Family Visiting, Resource Guide, and attachments

- A visitor applies through the electronic application form found on doc.wa.gov (or by sending the application to HQ).
- The system sends the application to the DOC EFV email address (when submitted electronically).
- Documentation is compiled by a Statewide Visit Unit EFV processor if additional documents are required, an EFV processor notifies the visitor of what is needed. Once all necessary documents are received, the packet is forwarded to the facility designated point of contact.
 - At the facility, the Case Manager makes a recommendation based on policy requirements the schedules for a Facility Risk Management Team (FRMT) meeting.
 - FRMT makes a recommendation and forwards the request to medical for review, medical sends it back to the Case Manager who sends it through the facility process until it reaches the Superintendent.
 - For crimes other than serious violent and sex offense cases, the Superintendent determines outcome, and the facility point of contact sends it back to the EFV team who provides a written decision letter.
 - If the Superintendent denies, an appeal may be submitted, and the request is sent to the EFVRC for consideration and final determination.
 - For Serious Violent cases, the Superintendent makes a recommendation and sends the packet to the EFV team to schedule for the next available EFVRC for the proper Command. The Deputy Assistant Secretary makes the determination of outcome.
 - If the EFVRC/Deputy Assistant Secretary denies and an appeal is submitted, the outcome of the appeal is determined by the Assistant Secretary over the appropriate division (Men's/Women's).

What are disqualifiers?

- Disqualifiers include
 - Not meeting visit requirements (six visits with at least one in person in the last) year
 - Not being married to a spouse for at least a year.
 - Not being housed in a DOC prison facility for at least six months.
 - Having Category A, B1, or B2 infractions within timeframes.
 - Not being amenable to treatment opportunities.
 - Not being immediate family as defined in RCW 72.09.015
 - If assigned to closed or maximum custody levels.
 - Etc.

Is Domestic Violence a disqualifier?

- Yes, it can be, but it based on case specifics.
- DV history IS considered (see Resource Guide). However, the EFV Review Committee (EFVRC) looks at DV history on a case-by-case basis. There are a lot of factors that are considered for determining if an EFV will be denied due to DV history.
 - Is there a pattern of domestic violence?
 - Is the proposed visitor in a relationship like a previous victim(s) (e.g. romantic relationship)?
 - How long has it been since the DV occurred?
 - How long after the DV was the individual in the community after the DV history?
 - How egregious was the DV history?
 - Was the DV a "hands on" offense?

Note* we look at both I/I and visitor DV patterns, a denial could occur if a visitor has a documented history of DV.

- Is there a way to individually evaluate people who are appealing their convictions so they may be able to participate in EFV, specifically?
 - EFV privileges require amenability, without amenability, the individual is unable to discuss their crime, by appealing the individual is saying that they do not have any inappropriate/illegal sexual behaviors to work on, making it impossible to identify risks.
 - To be considered amenable,
 - engage in ongoing conversations and exploration regarding their inappropriate/illegal sexual behaviors.
 - Three States still offer this type of program, to keep the program as safe as possible for all participants, DOC must be able to identify risk
 - WA,
 - NY—NY has legislation on the table to end their program,
 - CA had a couple of unfortunate events occur in 2024 that may cause the loss of their program.
 - * Connecticut will be listed if you Google it or ask AI. In 2014, I called CT and was told they no longer offer the program. In 2018, I verified through email with CT DOC that they do NOT offer an EFV program.

From: PIO, DOC <DOC.PIO@ct.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 9:57 AM
To: Hainline, Elizabeth J. 'Liz' (DOC) <ejhainline@DOC1.WA.GOV>; PIO, DOC <DOC.PIO@ct.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecticut and Extended Visiting

Good afternoon,
We no longer have extended family visiting in Connecticut.

Public Information Office
CT Department of Correction
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Phone: 860.692.7780
Fax: 860.692.7783
Email: doc.pio@ct.gov
Website: www.ct.gov/doc



Scheduling timeframes

- AHCC Generally first requested date.
- CCCC Weekdays 20 days, Weekends 30 days.
- CBCC First Requested date.
- CRCC
- MCC Weekdays about 4 weeks; Weekends about 5 weeks.
- OCC First requested date.
- SCCC weekdays about 6 weeks; Weekends about 10-12 weeks.
- WCC About 12 weeks.
- WCCW First Requested date.
- WSP Between 4-6 weeks for Medium Custody.

* Timeframes to schedule are based on information provided by the facilities in June 2025.