

Australian Capital Territory

Corrections Management (Reception and Management of Female Detainees) Policy 2014 (No 1)

Notifiable instrument NI2014-543

made under the

***Corrections Management Act 2007*, section 14(1) (Corrections policies and operating procedures)**

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Corrections Management (Reception and Management of Female Detainees) Policy 2014 (No 1)*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after it is notified.

3 Policy

I make the

RECEPTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FEMALE DETAINEES POLICY

to facilitate the effective and efficient management of correctional services.

4 Revocation

This instrument revokes notifiable instruments NI2010-448 and NI2007-468.

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ACT Corrective Services
21 October 2014



**ACT Corrective Services
All Facilities and Operations**



**RECEPTION AND MANAGEMENT OF
FEMALE DETAINEES POLICY**

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Purpose

To outline the policy for reception and management of female detainees.

Authority

Legislation

Corrections Management Act 2007, sections 14 and 98 and part 9.4

Policy

All female detainees will have access to the same level of programs, education, recreation, medical, and mental health services as male detainees.

If, during the initial interview, a female detainee indicates that she is the primary care giver of any children, the detainee’s Case Manager must interview the detainee within 24 hours of induction or, in the case of a weekend reception, on the next working day.

If a detainee indicates that she is pregnant this information will be reported to Corrections Health. The Supervisor admissions will refer any pregnant detainee to the Case Manager.

Admission and discharge

The admission and discharge procedure for a female detainee is the same as the admission and discharge procedure for male detainees.

Information will be provided to female detainees relating to the women's area specific programs available to female detainees, and any other information deemed appropriate by the area Supervisor.

Where possible, the needs of female detainees will be met within the women's area.

Accommodation

Female detainees will be accommodated within the women's area in the general cottages or the high needs cottage. Female detainees may, on occasion, require placement in the Crisis Support Unit or the Management Unit.

A decision to place a female detainee in the high needs cottage will be decided by consultation between the Area Manager, area Supervisor, the clinical psychologist and others involved in the detainees management. The sentence planning group may also place a detainee in the high needs cottage.

Provisions may be made for the accommodation of infants and toddlers with their mothers. This procedure is set out in the Women and Children Program Policy and Procedure.

Recreation, programs, and education

Where practicable, all recreation, programs, and education will take place within the women's area and community centre. Should specific equipment be required (where that equipment cannot be transported to the community centre) female detainees may access the program and associated equipment on a timetabled basis.

Female and male detainees will not generally access recreation, programs and education at the same time.

Employment

Employment opportunities will be provided within the women's area and will be allocated to female detainees.

Medical

Female detainees will be able to access medical services in accordance with the Access to Health Care Policy. Routine medical attention will be provided in the community centre's medical rooms.

Female detainees may request to be treated by a female doctor or nurse. In cases requiring emergency or other medical treatment, the security and good order of the AMC as well the safety of the detainee and others, will take priority over this preference.

Gynaecological and obstetric services

Gynaecological and obstetric services will be made available following a referral from the Medical Officer.

Pregnancy and Childbirth

Female detainees will be taken under escort to a hospital in order to give birth to a child.

Where it is not possible (for any reason) for a pregnant woman to be taken to hospital to give birth, ACTCS will take steps to ensure that the AMC is not listed as the place of birth.

Arrangements will be made for the detainee to contact her family or the baby's father following the onset of labour, and again following the birth of the child. Where the detainee is not able to contact their relevant support person, the area Supervisor will make the contact on her behalf.

Following a security assessment, consideration will be given to allowing a support person to be with the detainee during the birth.

Cultural considerations

Where a pregnant woman is held in custody, full consideration will be given to any cultural issues surrounding childbirth.

Miscarriage

In the event of a miscarriage, Corrections Health and ACTCS are responsible for ensuring adequate emotional, cultural, and/or religious support is given to the detainee.

The Case Manager will review the detainee at least fortnightly in the last 2 months of the pregnancy to evaluate any additional needs of the mother. These reviews will continue after the birth of the child until no longer required.

Breastfeeding

Corrections Health will be advised if a detainee is received who is a breastfeeding mother.

Provision will be made for detainees who are breastfeeding to feed the child at the AMC and/or to express milk. Arrangements for this will be made in consultation with the detainee and will be based on the best interests of the child, the welfare of the detainee, and operational requirements. Flexible feeding times and the location of the feeding will also be considered.

Visit Arrangements

The policy regarding visitors for female detainees is outlined in the *Visits Policy*.

Contact visits will take place in the community centre within the women's area. Non-contact visits and private family visits will take place in the main visits centre. All visits should be booked in accordance with the *Visits Policy*.

Supervision of female detainees

Male corrections officers should not enter the cell of a female detainee without being in the presence of another corrections officer, other than when responding to an incident. Where practicable, only female corrections officers will monitor female detainees via camera observation in the high needs cottage.

Male corrections officers will not be deployed as the sole escorting officer on external escorts.

Where a review of an incident is necessary, appropriate personnel (regardless of gender) who are directly responsible for ensuring compliance with policies and procedures may review recorded incidents.

Searching of female detainees

The searching of female detainees will be conducted in accordance to the *Searching Policy* and *Procedure*.

Female officers must complete all frisk and strip searches on women detainees.

No male officer may witness the strip search of a woman detainee. All male persons must be removed from any area in which a strip search of a woman detainee is taking place.

Access to outside agencies

Subject to the approval of the General Manager, Custodial Operations, members of community-based organisations operating outside the AMC may be granted access to the facility to conduct programs and/or education for female detainees.

Any member of a community-based organisation that is granted access to the facility is subject to all policies and procedures regarding searching and contraband.

Forms/templates

Nil

Related Policies/Procedures

Access to Health Care Policy

Visits Policy

Searching Policy

Searching Procedure