

 <p style="text-align: center;">KENTUCKY CORRECTIONS Policies and Procedures</p>	Policy Number	Total Pages
	26.1	7
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	January 13, 2020	September 1, 2020
Authority/References ACA 5-1G-4115 through 5-1G-4122; 2-CO-1G-01 through 2-CO-1G-10 KRS 196.035, 197.020	Subject CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT, VOLUNTEER, AND REENTRY MENTOR SERVICE PROGRAMS	

I. DEFINITIONS

“Certified volunteer” means an individual not employed by the Department of Corrections (DOC) who provides specified services to the inmate population on an on-going basis and has met the certification requirements.

“Non-certified volunteer” means an individual not employed by the Department of Corrections who provides specified services to the inmate population and has not met the certification requirements.

“Reentry mentor” means a volunteer who is affiliated with a community or faith based organization, which has collaborated with the Division of Reentry Services, to assist offenders in transitioning into the community from incarceration or on supervision under the Division of Probation and Parole.

“Reentry Mentor Coordinator” means a person within the Division of Reentry Services who is designated by the Director to facilitate reentry mentor activities.

“Special event volunteer” means an individual or member of a group not employed by the Department of Corrections who is involved in a selected activity that does not occur on a regular basis.

“Volunteer coordinator” means the person at an institution who is designated by the warden to facilitate volunteer activities.

“Volunteer services” means any specified service made available to the inmate population which involves contact or interactions with an approved volunteer providing a specified service.

II. POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Volunteer programs shall have a stated purpose. Attempts shall be made to recruit volunteers from all cultural and socioeconomic segments of the community reflective of the inmate population. A certified volunteer shall be eligible to provide services to all institutions.

Policy Number	Effective Date	Page
26.1	September 1, 2020	2

A. Volunteer Coordinator

1. The warden of each institution shall designate a volunteer coordinator.
2. The volunteer coordinator shall be responsible for:
 - a. recruiting volunteers and programs,
 - b. coordinating selection of volunteers,
 - c. coordinating training of volunteers,
 - d. coordinating assignments of volunteers,
 - e. facilitating volunteers and programs, and
 - f. reporting on a monthly basis the activities of volunteers to the warden and Director of Operations.
3. The volunteer coordinator shall notify the inmate population of the services that are available.
4. Each institution shall notify the Director of Operations of the name of the volunteer coordinator so that a list may be maintained of all volunteer coordinators. The Director of Operations shall coordinate the institutional volunteer program.

B. Volunteer Standards of Conduct

1. A volunteer shall not use employee time, facilities, equipment, or supplies of the Commonwealth for private purposes.
2. The use of intoxicants shall not be tolerated.
3. A volunteer shall not exchange a gift or favor with an inmate or family member of an inmate without approval of the warden or designee.
4. A volunteer shall not become romantically involved with an inmate.
5. A volunteer may exchange information with the inmate consistent with the mission of the volunteer program.

C. Certified Volunteers

1. In order to become a certified volunteer, all applicants shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. be at least 18 years of age,

Policy Number	Effective Date	Page
26.1	September 1, 2020	3

- b. provide all requested information when making an application to become a volunteer,
- c. submit to a background check by supplying required information and authorizations,
 - (1) All applicants shall notify the Department of Corrections of any criminal record if making an application.
 - (2) A criminal record may not necessarily preclude an individual from becoming a volunteer.
- d. agree in writing to comply with the volunteer standards of conduct and confidentiality requirements,
- e. submit to a drug test, if requested.

2. Volunteer Application Process

- a. An individual may apply to become a volunteer for the Department of Corrections at any Department of Corrections institution.
- b. Information concerning applying to be a volunteer may be obtained from the volunteer coordinator.
- c. The volunteer coordinator shall review and make a determination concerning each application within five (5) working days from the date received. This determination may be subject to change if additional information is received.
- d. The volunteer coordinator may interview the applicant.
- e. If the volunteer coordinator rejects an application, the warden or his designee shall review the application and the reasons for the rejection and make a final determination.
- f. The volunteer coordinator shall notify the applicant in writing of the result of the application.

3. Volunteer Orientation and Training

- a. The volunteer shall receive an orientation to the institution, including a tour with emphasis on the area in which the volunteer will work.
 - (1) A volunteer working in multiple institutions shall receive an orientation and tour of each institution.

Policy Number	Effective Date	Page
26.1	September 1, 2020	4

(2) Each institution shall maintain a record of all volunteer orientations.

- b. The volunteer shall complete the training program as developed by the Division of Corrections Training.
- c. The volunteer shall agree in writing to abide by the volunteer standards of conduct and all institutional policies, particularly those relating to the security and confidentiality of information.
- d. All training shall be documented and maintained by the volunteer coordinator.
- e. A volunteer shall complete annual training as required by the Division of Corrections Training. Failure to complete annual training shall result in the volunteer being removed from the volunteer list.

4. Registration and Identification

- a. Upon completion of orientation and training, the certified volunteer shall be assigned an identification card. This identification card shall be maintained at all institutions where the person volunteers.
- b. Upon entering an institution to volunteer, the certified volunteer shall present a picture ID and receive his institutional volunteer ID. The personal picture ID shall be returned to the volunteer upon surrender of the institutional volunteer ID as the volunteer exits the institution.
- c. The identification information maintained on the volunteer shall include photograph, address, current telephone number, and emergency contacts. It may include other relevant information.

D. Non-Certified Volunteers

1. Non-certified volunteers shall:

- a. Provide the volunteer coordinator necessary information and authorizations to conduct a background check.
- b. A criminal record shall not necessarily preclude the individual from becoming a volunteer.

(1) A non-certified volunteer shall be accompanied by a staff member or a certified volunteer at all times.

Policy Number	Effective Date	Page
26.1	September 1, 2020	5

- (2) A non-certified volunteer shall be admitted in accordance with the institutional policy for visitors.

E. Special Event Volunteers

1. A special event volunteer shall:
 - a. Provide to the volunteer coordinator necessary information and authorizations to conduct a background check.
 - b. A criminal record shall not necessarily preclude a volunteer from participation in the event.
2. A special event volunteer shall be accompanied by Corrections staff or a certified volunteer at all times.
3. A special event volunteer shall be admitted in accordance with the institutional policy for visitors.

F. Volunteer Programs

1. All certified volunteers shall submit a schedule to the volunteer coordinator.
2. The volunteer coordinator shall adjust schedules as necessary to accommodate volunteer programs.
3. The volunteer coordinator shall make necessary notifications of the scheduling and volunteer services available, which may include posting it for the inmate population.

G. Volunteer Review and Termination

1. All volunteer programs shall be reviewed annually by the volunteer coordinator to insure that they are meeting stated goals and continuing to enhance services provided to the inmate population.
2. All volunteers shall be reviewed annually to evaluate their participation in the volunteer program. A volunteer may be terminated for inadequate participation, security issues, or other relevant issues.
3. Any volunteer or program deemed to threaten the security of the institution shall be discontinued or limited until the problem is resolved.
4. Regular meetings between Department of Corrections staff and volunteers shall be held to encourage input, suggestions, and an exchange of information regarding the establishment of policy and procedure related to the volunteer services program.

Policy Number	Effective Date	Page
26.1	September 1, 2020	6

H. Reentry Mentor Coordinator

1. The Director of the Division of Reentry Services shall designate a Reentry Mentor Coordinator.
2. The Division of Reentry Services shall notify the inmate population of the mentor services available.
3. The Reentry Mentor Coordinator shall be responsible for:
 - a. Recruiting mentors and mentoring programs for the DOC;
 - b. Coordinating selection of mentors;
 - c. Coordinating training of mentors;
 - d. Coordinating assignment of mentors;
 - e. Reporting on a monthly basis the outcomes of the Mentor program to the Director; and
 - f. Maintaining a list of mentors and their affiliated organizations.

I. Reentry Mentors

1. All reentry mentor applicants shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. Be affiliated with a DOC recognized community or faith-based partner and have a recommendation from the leadership of that organization;
 - b. Be an approved certified volunteer;
 - c. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
 - d. Provide all requested information to become a volunteer during the application process;
2. If the Reentry Mentor Coordinator determines that an application should be rejected, the application shall be sent to the Director of the Division of Reentry Services or his designee for review. The Director of the Division of Reentry Services or his designee shall review the application and the reasons for the rejection and make a final determination.
3. The Reentry Mentor Coordinator shall notify the applicant in writing of the result of the application.

Policy Number	Effective Date	Page
26.1	September 1, 2020	7

J. Mentor Orientation and Training

1. The mentor shall complete a training program developed by the Division of Corrections Training and Division of Reentry Services.
2. The mentor shall agree in writing to abide by the mentor standards of conduct and all DOC and institutional policies.
3. All training shall be documented and maintained by the Reentry Mentor Coordinator.
4. A mentor shall complete annual training and other training as necessary by the Division of Reentry Services. Failure to complete annual training shall result in the mentor being removed from the approved mentor list.

K. Mentor Standards of Conduct

1. A mentor shall not use DOC employee time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private purposes.
2. The use of intoxicants shall not be tolerated.
3. A mentor shall not become romantically involved with an inmate or an individual under supervision within the Department of Corrections.
4. A mentor may make electronic contact by telephone or email with an assigned mentee within reason (as outlined by the Reentry Mentor Coordinator) for reentry planning purposes.
5. A mentor shall be of the same gender as the assigned mentee.

L. Mentor Review and Termination

1. All mentors shall be reviewed annually to evaluate their participation in the mentor program. A mentor may be terminated for inadequate participation, security issues, or other relevant issues.
2. Any mentor deemed to threaten the security of the institution shall be discontinued or limited by the Warden or his designee until the issue is resolved.
3. Regular meetings between DOC staff and mentors shall be held to encourage input, suggestions, and an exchange of information regarding the establishment of policy and procedure related to the mentor services program.

VOLUNTEER CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONDUCT AGREEMENT

PRINT:

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Middle Initial)

I understand and agree that I shall abide by the volunteer standards of conduct found in Corrections Policy and Procedure 26.1 – “Citizen Involvement, Volunteer, and Reentry Mentor Service Programs”. I have been given a copy of this policy.

I understand that I may be allowed access to confidential information or records in order that I may perform my specific duties as a volunteer. I further understand and agree that I shall not disclose confidential information or records without the prior written consent of the appropriate authority in the Department of Corrections.

I understand that accessing or releasing confidential information or records of the Department of Corrections concerning myself, other individuals, offenders, or relatives, or causing confidential information or records of the Department of Corrections concerning myself, other individuals, offenders, or relatives to be accessed or released, outside the scope of my assigned duties constitutes a violation of this agreement and may result in my termination as a volunteer and legal action against me.

By affixing my signature to this document, I acknowledge that I have been apprised of the relevant laws, regulations, and policies concerning access, use, maintenance, and disclosure of confidential information or records that are made available to me through my volunteer activities with the Department of Corrections. I further agree that it is my responsibility to assure the confidentiality of all information that has been issued to me in confidence, even after my status as a volunteer with the department ends.

Pursuant to this agreement, I certify that I have read and understand the laws, policies, and regulations concerning confidentiality of information or records.

I also certify by my signature that I have been given a copy of this statement and have been notified that a copy of this statement shall be placed in the institution volunteer file.

Volunteer Signature/Date

Volunteer Coordinator Signature/Date

Warden or Designee Signature/Date

MENTOR CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONDUCT AGREEMENT

PRINT: _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial)

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION NAME: _____

I understand and agree that I shall abide by the mentor standards of conduct found in Corrections Policy and Procedure 26.1 – “Citizen Involvement, Volunteer and Reentry Mentor Service Programs”. I have been given a copy of this policy.

I understand that I may be allowed access to confidential information or records in order that I may perform my specific duties as a mentor. I further understand and agree that I shall not disclose confidential information or records without the prior written consent of the appropriate authority in the Department of Corrections.

I understand that accessing or releasing confidential information or records of the Department of Corrections concerning myself, other individuals, offenders, or relatives, or causing confidential information or records of the Department of Corrections concerning myself, other individuals, offenders, or relatives to be accessed or released, outside the scope of my assigned duties constitutes a violation of this agreement and may result in my termination as a mentor and legal action against me.

By affixing my signature to this document, I acknowledge that I have been apprised of the relevant laws, regulations, and policies concerning access, use, maintenance, and disclosure of confidential information or records that are made available to me through my mentor activities with the Department of Corrections. I further agree that it is my responsibility to assure the confidentiality of all information that has been issued to me in confidence, even after my status as a mentor with the Department ends.

Pursuant to this agreement, I certify that I have read and understand the laws, policies, and regulations concerning confidentiality of information or records.

I also certify by my signature that I have been given a copy of this agreement and have been notified that a copy of this agreement shall be placed in the Department mentor file.

Mentor Signature/Date

Reentry Mentor Coordinator Signature/Date

Director or Designee Signature/Date