

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

	POLICY NUMBER: 9.33-3 DOC	EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/26/11	PAGE 1 OF 4
	SUPERCEDES: 9.33-2 DOC	DIRECTOR: 	
SECTION: SECURITY & CONTROL		SUBJECT: DOUBLE OCCUPANCY OF INMATE CELLS	
AUTHORITY: Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-56-10(22), Powers of the director			
REFERENCES: RIDOC Policy #'s 12.26-2 DOC, Special Management of Juvenile Offenders; 13.10-1 DOC; Inmate Grievance Procedure; 18.22 DOC; Inmates and Visitors with Special Needs; 18.51-2 DOC, Management of Offenders Whose Emotional/Psychiatric Status Presents a Danger to Self or Others; ACA Standard #'s 4-4137, Bathroom Facilities; 4-4138, Hot/Cold Water; 4-4139, Showers; 4-4142, Housing for the Handicapped; 4-4151, Indoor Air Quality; 4-4281, Protection from Harm; 4-4182, No Inmate Control Over Other Inmates; 4-4295, Classification Plan			
INMATE/PUBLIC ACCESS?		X YES	
AVAILABLE IN SPANISH?		X NO	

I. PURPOSE:

To specify criteria to be considered when selecting inmates for double occupancy of cells.

II. POLICY:

- A. Double occupancy of cells may be utilized when necessary to ensure the safe and secure housing of inmates.
- B. Criteria are established to ensure that double occupancy of cells is accomplished in a systematic, orderly fashion that minimizes the possibility of physical or mental harm to inmates and facilitates their safe and harmonious co-existence.

III. PROCEDURES:

A. It is the responsibility of the Warden or designee (i.e., Deputy Warden) to ensure the provisions of this policy are carried out at each facility requiring double occupancy of cells.

B. Initial Transition to Double Occupancy

Whenever a facility changes from single occupancy of cells to double occupancy, the following procedures are used in accordance with the criteria established in this policy.

1. Inmates are notified in advance that double occupancy will occur.
2. Except for protective custody detainees, pre-trial detainees have separate cells from convicted prisoners.
3. Juveniles are only housed in cells with other juveniles. At no time are juvenile inmates housed in cells with adult inmates.

C. Criteria for Double Occupancy

1. The following criteria are considered when selecting individuals for double occupancy celling. Decisions are based on professional judgment:
 - a. Personalities - exhibit similar personality traits.
 - b. Transient Inmates - by their crimes, sentences, or status, may be in a particular facility for only a brief time.
 - c. Language - the two inmates must speak the same language or share a similar language or means of communication.
 - d. Interests- exhibit similar attitudes and interests.
 - e. Size, Weight, Height, and Age - are of comparative size, weight, height, and age. Offenders in this category are prone to offset and/or deter each other from physical confrontation due to similar body structures.

- f. Enemy Situations - may have similar enemies within the facility. This arrangement could remove the possibility of their becoming threatened, harassed, or assaulted.
- g. Protective Custody - through court recommendation or Departmental screening are placed in protective custody status.

NOTE: In cases where protective custody has been court ordered, facility staff are to contact RIDOC's Legal Counsel for further instructions.

- h. Inmates with a history of suicide attempts should have a cellmate whenever possible.
2. Double bunking consideration will NOT be given to individuals whose:
- a. Sexual Deviations/Preferences - sexual behavior and/or projected inclinations may lead to a person's being a sexual aggressor, victim, or partner.
 - b. Disruptive Inmates - lack of compatibility with each other has proven disruptive to the safety, good order, and discipline of the facility.
 - c. Rival Gang Affiliations - membership in a rival gang, rather than merely an individual personal enemy issue, may jeopardize facility security.
 - d. Relatives - relationship to another inmate by blood or marriage (in-laws, step siblings) makes him/her ineligible for double bunking with a relative.
3. Handicaps and/or Special Needs - Prior to double bunking inmates with documented physical handicaps and/or special needs, all factors necessary to provide reasonable accommodations, including access to integrated services, are identified and considered. (See, 18.22 DOC, Inmates and Visitors with Special Needs, or a successive policy.)

D. Authority for Cell Assignments

The designated Shift Commander or designee makes all routine cell assignments (as designated in facility SOPs) subject to the review and approval of the Warden or designee (i.e., Deputy Warden).

1. Emergency cell transfers may be approved by any Shift Commander at any time.

NOTE: Such moves are followed by a detailed report to the Warden or designee (i.e., Deputy Warden), stating the reason(s) for the transfer by the close of the shift on which the transfer occurred.

2. Cell assignments are reviewed and adjusted as necessary to ensure the safety, security, and good order of the facilities and inmates' well being.
3. Inmates may request cell changes through request slips to the facility's Warden or designee (i.e., Deputy Warden). (See policy 13.10-1 DOC, Inmate Grievance Procedure, or a successive policy.)