



**STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

Policy No. DOC 4.5.27	Subject: <b>OFFENDER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES	Page 1 of 2 and Attachment
Section 5: Health Care	Effective Date: Sept. 1, 1998
Signature: /s/ Mike Ferriter, Director	Revised: 06/14/01; 03/26/02; 04/18/06; 10/27/09

## **I. POLICY**

The Department of Corrections facilities will provide mental health services at intake and as clinically indicated for offenders who suffer from mental disorders.

## **II. APPLICABILITY**

The secure care facilities that include Riverside and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facilities, Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, and the private and regional facilities contracted to the Department of Corrections.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

Mental Disorder – Refers to the meaning provided in 53-21-102(9)(a), MCA.

Mental Health Services – The use of a variety of psychosocial and pharmacological individual or group therapies, including biological, psychological, and social, to alleviate symptoms, attain appropriate functioning, and prevent relapse.

## **IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES**

### **A. Requirements**

1. Facility mental health practitioners will provide:
  - a. services that screen and identify offenders who have a current or past history of mental disorder;
  - b. voluntary treatment unless treatment providers determine the offender is gravely disabled or a significant danger to self or others;
  - c. procedures to ensure treatment providers refer all offenders for further psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment when indicated; and
  - d. crisis intervention for suicide attempts or acute mental distress.
2. Each facility will develop procedures that address:
  - a. scope of available services;
  - b. process by which an offender may access or is referred for services in accordance with the Request for Mental Health Services [MS® Office Format](#) [PDF Format](#);
  - c. training for use of seclusion, restraints, or forced psychotropic medication, if permitted by the facility;
  - d. education and training of custody and clinical staff in suicide prevention and recognition of mental illness;

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- e. crisis intervention and emergency referrals;
- f. medication monitoring and periodic re-evaluation; and
- g. offender right to refuse treatment and the method of documentation;

## V. CLOSING

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Department medical director.

## VI. REFERENCES

- A. *53-1-203, MCA (2009) Powers and Duties of Department of Corrections; 53-21-102(9)(a), MCA (2009) Treatment of the Seriously Mentally Ill, Definitions*
- B. *National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards, 2008*
- C. *ACA Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2003*
- D. *Washington v. Harper: 494 U.S.210 (1990)*

## VII. ATTACHMENT

### **Related Form:**

Request for Mental Health Services [MS® Office Format](#) [PDF Format](#)