



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
MONTANA WOMEN'S PRISON
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

Procedure: 4.5.62	Title Suicide Prevention and Intervention
Effective Date:	April 1, 1997 Page 1 of 2
Revision Date(s):	February 2, 2023
Reference(s):	DOC 4.5.62 Suicide Prevention and Intervention
Signature:	Jennie Hansen / Warden

I. PURPOSE:

The Montana Women's Prison ("MWP") will prevent inmate suicide whenever possible by implementing prevention efforts and intervention.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Observation Cell- A temporary and non-punitive separation from regular housing to establish the safety of an inmate in collaboration with Mental Health Services.

Qualified Mental Health Professional - Psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, licensed professional counselors, psychiatric nurses, or other who, by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience, are permitted by law to evaluate and care for the mental health needs of a patients.

III. PROCEDURES:

1. A Shift Supervisor or designee may place an inmate in the observation cell for suicidal ideation.
2. Following an inmate's placement in an observation cell for suicidal ideations, a QMHP must be immediately notified to ensure a Suicide Assessment is timely completed.
3. If a staff member has any reason to believe an inmate may be suicidal, the inmate must not be left alone. The inmate must be under constant observation until placed in the observation cell. The staff member will notify the on-duty supervisor who will, during normal working hours, notify the MWP Mental Health Department.
4. The on-duty Lieutenant will authorize a strip search of the inmate, utilizing MWP Strip Search Procedures (MWP 3.1.17b). The inmate will then be given a suicide gown, a suicide blanket and will be placed in the observation cell.
5. "Adult incontinence pants may be used if needed for menstruation or incontinence.
6. No other property will be allowed while in the observation cell.

7. The Shift Log in the Lieutenant's Office must document that the inmate is on-unscheduled 15-minute checks. 15-minute checks will be documented in Guard 1 when a physical check is completed.
8. An incident report will be completed each time an inmate is placed in the observation cell.
9. While an inmate is in the observation cell for suicidal ideations, all meals will be delivered during regular mealtimes. All meals will be finger foods and will be served on a disposable serving dish. Staff will inspect the dish/food for contraband. No spoons, knives or forks are allowed.
10. The Shift Supervisor will determine placement of the inmate upon completion of suicide observation.

IV. CLOSING:

Questions concerning this procedure should be directed to the Associate Warden of Operations and/or the Mental Health Services Manager.

V. ATTACHMENTS:

None