



POLICY DIRECTIVE

Policy:	DOC 4.5.42 CARE FOR TERMINALLY ILL ADULT OFFENDERS
Effective Date:	01/04/2021 Page 1 of 1
Revision Date(s):	04/24/2026
Department Director Signature:	/s/ Eric Strauss, Director
Medical Director Signature:	/s/ Dr. Paul Rees, MD
Health Services Bureau Chief Signature:	/s/ Cynthia McGillis-Hiner, RN, MSN

I. POLICY

The Department of Corrections will ensure the needs of terminally ill offenders are met, including protecting their rights regarding end-of-life decisions.

II. APPLICABILITY

All secure care facilities Department-owned and contracted.

III. DEFINITIONS

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. General Requirements

1. Each facility must have a process to address the needs of terminally ill offenders that includes palliative care.
2. When the responsible physician determines that care in a community setting is medically preferable, a recommendation is made to the appropriate legal authority regarding the offender's transfer or medical parole.

B. Palliative Care

1. The on-site palliative care process shall include the following:
 - a. participation is an offender's informed choice;
 - b. qualified health care professionals providing palliative care have received training in palliative care techniques;
 - c. offender workers or volunteers providing services in the program are properly trained and supervised.

V. CLOSING

Questions about this policy should be directed to the Health Services Bureau Chief.

VI. REFERENCES

- A. *P-F-07; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Prisons, 2018*