



POLICY DIRECTIVE

Policy:	DOC 4.5.60 THERAPEUTIC RELATIONSHIP PROTECTION
Effective Date:	04/19/2021 Page 1 of 2
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 will ensure that health staff protect the integrity of the therapeutic relationship with their patients.

II. APPLICABILITY

All Department secure facilities.

III. DEFINITIONS (see Glossary)

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. General Requirements

1. Health and mental health staff will not be involved in the collection or reporting of forensic information.
2. Health staff may not participate in disciplinary action and cannot be compelled to provide clinical information about offenders solely for the purpose of discipline.
3. Treatments and medications for offenders may never be withheld as a form of punishment.
4. Segregation and restraints may never be clinically implemented as disciplinary action.

B. Mental Health Staff

1. Mental health staff may not release offender mental health information for forensic (for example, investigative, evidence-gathering) purposes except when:
 - a. conducting offender-specific, court-ordered psychiatric or psychological examinations or evaluations with the informed consent of the offender;
 - b. conducting offender-specific evaluations for the Board of Pardons and Parole or court regarding continuity-of-care needs with the informed consent of the offender;
 - c. providing consultation to the disciplinary committees regarding the role of mental illness in a particular event; and
 - d. conducting blood or urine testing for alcohol or other drugs as needed for psychiatric evaluations.

V. CLOSING

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

VI. REFERENCES

- A. *P-G-04; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Prisons, 2018*
- B. *MH-I-03; National Commission on Mental Health Services in Correctional Facilities, 2015*
- C. *Y-I-03; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities, 2015*