

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

INMATE HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide general information to you and others interested in the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC). The most current policy will become effective, regardless of what information is in this handbook.

The handbook is not a guide to the detailed policies of the MDOC (which are subject to change) or all procedures in effect at each MDOC facility. That information will be made available to you during the facility's reception and orientation program. The material in this handbook will help you understand what you will encounter when you enter the MDOC, and help you in your adjustment to facility life.

You are to keep this handbook from the time it is given to you until you are released. You are expected to conduct yourself in an orderly and mature manner and to respect the rights of others. Some of the programs and services available to you are mentioned in this handbook. You may get more information about available programs or services by sending a request slip to the staff member in charge of the program or service. You are encouraged to discuss your needs, goals, and interests with staff. Your conduct and attitude will be observed and will be reviewed by staff when they consider you for programs, pre-release, parole, and other privileges. You should try to make good use of the time you are in the MDOC by using programs and services to better yourself.

You are responsible for knowing and following all of the MDOC's rules and regulations that directly affect you. To review current policies and procedures, you may request them through the Inmate Legal Assistance Program. Close observance of MDOC rules and regulations will prove beneficial in receiving parole or early release consideration, possibly a choice work assignment, plus a considerable number of privileges that will make the period of confinement both rewarding and less stringent. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations will result in failure to earn those privileges and deter favorable consideration for programs that can shorten the inmate's stay in the MDOC. Failure to comply may, in some cases, be justifiable cause for the inmate to receive punishment and possibly an additional sentence.

Most inmates desire to serve their time in the best and most effective way possible and, as soon as possible, gain their release through Earned Release Supervision (ERS), parole, or discharge.

There are many beneficial programs available to inmates, and it is anticipated that each inmate will fully take advantage of all programs which serve their individual needs. While housed in the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) Reception and Classification Center (R&C), staff members and specialists will counsel with and assist each inmate in making the best choice of a suitable program. However, each inmate is personally responsible for his/her own progress, work performance, educational development, and social growth.