

# State of Alabama Alabama Department of Corrections



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September 20, 2004

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION  
NUMBER 625

OPR: TREATMENT

## **MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION OF INMATES ON SEGREGATION STATUS**

### **I. GENERAL**

This Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) Administrative Regulation (AR) establishes the responsibilities, policies and procedures for the mental health evaluation of inmates on segregation status.

### **II. POLICY**

Mental health professionals will evaluate inmates who are receiving treatment for serious mental illness within one working day of the inmate's placement in a segregation cell. ADOC psychologists and psychological associates will perform brief mental health assessments:

- A. Whenever an inmate is maintained in a segregation cell for longer than thirty-days.
- B. Following each ninety-day period thereafter.
- C. To determine if segregation placement is contraindicated by:
  1. The inmate's mental status.
  2. The potential for significant deterioration in the inmate's functioning by continued placement in the restrictive environment.

### **III. DEFINITION(S) AND ACRONYM(S)**

Refer to AR 602 for definitions of the following terms used in this AR:

Treatment Compliance

Treatment Coordinator

Segregation (SEG)

Serious Mental Illness

Director of Treatment

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The Director of Treatment for ADOC is responsible for ensuring that clinically effective mental health treatment is provided in a therapeutic environment.
- B. All contracted medical, mental health and ADOC employees involved in the provision of medical and mental health care services, will ensure that such services are provided in a therapeutic environment.

**V. PROCEDURES**

- A. Mental health staff will review daily reports of segregation (SEG) unit placements to determine if an inmate receiving treatment for serious mental illness has been placed in SEG.
- B. A treatment coordinator will conduct a face-to-face evaluation of the inmate within 24 hours of placement in SEG (except on weekends).
- C. The treatment coordinator will document the evaluation in the mental health progress notes of the inmate's medical record. The evaluation of the inmate will address the following clinical issues:
  - 1. Mental status and current behavior
  - 2. Treatment compliance
  - 3. Response to segregation placement
  - 4. Potential for harm to self or others
  - 5. Complaints or requests for services
  - 6. Ability to cope with segregation placement
- D. The treatment coordinator will advise the institution's supervising psychologist and the SEG security supervisor when an evaluation suggests that an inmate may be clinically inappropriate for SEG placement.
- E. Treatment coordinators will continue to monitor assigned inmates no less than monthly while the inmate is in segregation. When clinically indicated, the

follow-up will be more frequent. These contacts will be documented on ADOC Form MH-040, Progress Notes, and filed in the inmate's medical record.

- F. ADOC psychologists and psychological associates will conduct mental health assessments of inmates after an inmate has been placed in segregation for longer than thirty days and every ninety days thereafter. These assessments will be documented on ADOC Form MH-039, Review of Segregation Inmates.
- G. The ADOC psychologist or psychological associate will consult with the Warden or designee when their SEG mental health assessment indicates that continued placement in SEG is contraindicated by changes in the inmate's mental status and functioning. Alternative strategies to facilitate the inmate's mental stabilization will be offered.
- H. The ADOC psychologist or psychological associate will complete ADOC Form MH-008, Referral to Mental Health, and consult with the institution's supervising psychologist or designee when a SEG mental health assessment indicates that the inmate may be exhibiting signs of serious mental illness.
- I. The original ADOC Form MH-039 will be filed in the inmate's medical record. Copies will be:
  - 1. Placed in the inmate's institutional file.
  - 2. Sent to the Director of Central Records for inclusion in the inmate's central records file.

## **VI. DISPOSITION**

See AR 601, Mental Health Forms and Disposition.

## **VII. FORMS**

Refer to AR 601, Mental Health Forms and Disposition for:

- A. ADOC Form MH-008, Referral to Mental Health
- B. ADOC Form MH-039, Review of Segregation Inmates
- C. ADOC Form MH-040, Progress Notes

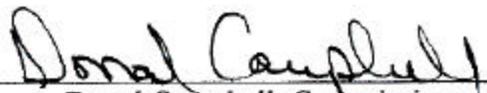
## **VIII. SUPERCEDES**

This AR supercedes AR 465 dated November 7, 2001.

## **IX. PERFORMANCE**

This administrative regulation is published under the authority of:

- A. The Bradley Agreement of August 8, 2000
- B. National Commission on Correctional Health Care: Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003. (P-E-09)
- C. The Code of Alabama 1975, Section 22-50-11

  
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Donal Campbell, Commissioner