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	POLICY AND PROCEDURE		SUPERSEDES:	1010.5H October 16, 2019	
			OPI:	OPERATIONS	
			REVIEW DATE:	October 31, 2025	
			Approving Authority	Thomas Faust Director	
SUBJECT:	CHAIN OF COMMAND				
NUMBER:	1010.5I				
Attachments:	NONE				

SUMMARY OF CHANGES:

Section	Change
	<i>Minor changes made throughout the policy.</i>

APPROVED:

Signature on File



Thomas Faust, Director

10/31/2024

Date Signed

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1. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE.** To establish authority and reporting guidelines within the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC).
2. **POLICY.** It is the policy of the DOC that all DOC employees adhere to their established chain of command while performing their assigned duties.
3. **APPLICABILITY.** The policy shall apply to all DOC contractors, volunteers, interns and any others who provide and conduct business within the DOC.
4. **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION.** In accordance with the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 et seq., (hereinafter, "the Act") the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sexual discrimination that is also prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above-protected categories is prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action.
5. **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.** The expected results of this directive are:
 - a. To establish clear lines of responsibility and communication at all employee levels.
 - b. To ensure that DOC employees adhere to the chain of command and attempt to resolve issues at the lowest practical level.
6. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.**
 - a. Directives Rescinded
 - 1) PP 1010.5H Chain of Command (10/16/2019)
 - b. Directives Referenced
 - 1) PP 1280.2 Reporting and Notification Procedures for Significant and Extraordinary Occurrences

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- 2) PP 3340.1 Sexual Harassment Against Employees
- 3) PP 3800.1 Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program

7. AUTHORITY. D.C. Code § 24-211.02 Powers: Promulgation of Rules.

8. STANDARDS REFERENCED

- a. American Correctional Association 4th Edition Performance-Based Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities: 4-ALDF-7D-04 and 4-ALDF- 7D-05.

9. NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE. Failure to adhere to policy may result in disciplinary action.

10. DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this directive, the following definitions apply:

- a. *Command.* The authority exercised by the virtue of one’s official rank, position, or designated duties.
- b. *Chain of Command.* The line of succession, authority and reporting obligation which employees are required to follow.
- c. *Executive Staff.* The executive staff is composed of the highest level of management officials of the Department. This includes the Director, Deputy Director(s), General Counsel and managers who report to the Director.
- d. *Senior Staff.* The senior staff is generally composed of Wardens, Administrators and Office Chiefs, but may include other personnel of similar position, responsibilities and authority.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS OF AUTHORITY

- a. *Executive Personnel*
 - 1) Director
 - 2) Deputy Director(s)
 - 3) General Counsel
 - 4) Warden DS-15

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- 5) Deputy Wardens DS-14
- 6) Administrators/Asst. Administrators/Managers DS-13/14-15
- 7) Office Chiefs DS-12/13
- 8) Supervisors DS-11

b. *Uniform Ranks*

- 1) Warden DS-15
- 2) Deputy Wardens DS-14
- 3) Major DS-13
- 4) Captain DS-12
- 5) Lieutenant DS-11
- 6) Sergeant DS-09
- 7) Private DS-07
- 8) Probationary Correctional Officer DS-06

12. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- a. Employees shall adhere to verbal and written orders communicated through their designated chain of command in the discharge of their duties.
- b. It is incumbent upon all employees to understand, recognize and determine when official communications and transactions must be cleared through the chain of command. When in doubt regarding this requirement, the appropriate supervisory personnel should be consulted.
- c. Employees seeking redress of grievances or complaints, or when submitting unsolicited proposals, should adhere to their chain of command, in addition to any other established regulations and procedures.
- d. Employees seeking to file complaints or grievances against their immediate supervisor shall submit their complaints or grievances to the next supervisor in their chain of command.
- e. In the event of an institution emergency, e.g., riot, hostage situation, fire, or power failure, the Senior Correctional Supervisor on duty shall assume command. Under such circumstances the authority of correctional personnel supersedes that of civilian personnel with the exception of executive staff or senior staff with security responsibilities (Wardens, Deputy Wardens, etc.) Any employee who has been reassigned or relieved of regular duties pending the outcome of an investigation may not be granted command even during an

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emergency.

- f. If a manager is absent from duty or is otherwise unable to carry out their duties and responsibilities, the manager, or a higher ranking official, shall appoint a designee. The acting designee shall not have singular authority for making decisions regarding personnel or major program changes.
- g. Chain-of-command procedures are inapplicable to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and sexual harassment complaints. Employees should follow the reporting procedures according to the EEO, PP 3800.1 and Sexual Harassment, PP 3310.4 directives.

13. HONORARY RANK. The conferral of honorary titles of rank upon civilians or DOC personnel other than the Department's Honor Guard Unit is prohibited; honorary titles conferred prior to the effective date of this order shall not be withdrawn.

DOC/PP1010.5I/10/31/2024/OPP