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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
STATE OF ARKANSAS
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

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834	1 of 2
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SUBJECT: Procedure for Handling Disciplinary Infractions of Mentally Disordered Inmates

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I. AUTHORITY:

The authority of the Board of Corrections to promulgate this Administrative Regulation is A.C.A. 12-27-105.

II. PURPOSE:

To ensure that policies and procedures for management of inmate behavior adequately take into account serious mental illness, ~~so that no inmate is punished for behavior in cases in which that inmate is unable, by virtue of mental illness or defect to exercise appropriate control.~~ Also To ensure that appropriate treatment interventions are considered and made accessible to reduce the likelihood of future misbehavior acting out. And these treatment interventions are consistent ~~And further to ensure that any punishments imposed on mentally ill or developmentally disabled inmates are monitored so as to be consistent with treatment goals so as~~ and not to cause regression or deterioration of the inmate's mental condition.

III. APPLICABILITY:

To all inmates identified as having a history of serious mental illness, or suspected at any point to be developing serious mental illness. To all staff involved in the disciplinary process, supervising inmates in segregated areas, or involved in health and correctional programs.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

- A. Assessment Evaluation: A mental health ~~assessment~~ evaluation performed under the supervision of a licensed practitioner, and which includes, at a minimum, direct contact with the inmate.
- B. Recommendations: Statements made and signed by a licensed clinician ~~which that may include, but are not limited to, the following:~~ will include a strategy for preventing future repetitions of the misbehavior while maintaining the mental health of the offender inmate; and ~~shall may include the degree to which the individual should be held~~

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accountable for the behaviors in question, mitigating circumstances, suggestions for placement of the inmate, and treatment plan considerations for the inmate.

~~C. C. **Serious Mental Illness:** This is defined as symptoms of a diagnosable mental disorder that impairs an individual's functioning and disrupts the capacity to cope with the ordinary demands of life. A serious mental illness will be considered to be a psychosis, such as schizophrenia, or major affective disorder such as bipolar disorder or major depression, that is likely to impair cognitive function and judgment but may include other mental disorders as defined as Axis-I disorders in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual and Developmental Disabilities. It may also be considered for individuals with Axis-II diagnoses where the disorder clearly contributes to major functional impairments.~~

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V. **POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Arkansas Department of Correction and a goal of the correctional process to teach self-control and personal responsibility for behavior to all inmates in its custody. It is recognized that inmate personal responsibility for behavior may be influenced by serious mental illness, and that such influences must be taken into account in pursuing the goals set out in this policy, both in assigning responsibility and in carrying out consequences.

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VI. **PROCEDURES:**

- A. At intake an **evaluation** assessment will be done on all individuals inmates entering the Arkansas Department of Correction and a mental health classification will be assigned as recommended by a licensed mental health staff psychologist or psychiatrist, and documented in the appropriate records.
- B. This classification will be reviewed and updated during the inmate's incarceration.
- C. ~~Individuals Inmates~~ who are identified as **seriously mentally ill** shall, at the time disciplinary charges are filed, or assignment to administrative segregation is being considered, be referred for an **evaluation** assessment. ~~Individuals suspected of being seriously mentally ill~~ At at any point during the disciplinary process, an inmate suspected of being mentally ill can be referred for an **evaluation**. ~~shall also be referred for an assessment.~~

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