

ICE/DRO RESIDENTIAL STANDARD

RECREATION

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE. Each resident has access to recreational and exercise programs and activities, within the constraints of safety, security, and good order.

II. EXPECTED OUTCOMES. The expected outcomes of this Residential Standard are as follows:

1. Residents will have daily opportunities to participate in leisure-time activities outside their housing areas.
2. Residents will have access to exercise opportunities and equipment.
3. Each citizen volunteer who provides or participates in facility recreational programs will complete an appropriate, documented orientation program and sign an acknowledgement of his or her understanding of the applicable rules and procedures as an agreement to comply with them.
4. Each recreational program will provide for specialized needs of adults and children in a residential environment.
5. Structured physical activities are provided for children when not in school, such as organized sports, physical activities such as dance, intellectually stimulating activities, arts and crafts, and music.
6. Facilities provide recreational opportunities that are age appropriate for children, including for children with disabilities.
7. Where required, residents have regular access to translation services and/or are provided information in a language that they understand.
8. The standard complies with federal laws and with DHS regulations regarding residents with special needs.

III. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None

IV. REFERENCES

The First Edition National Residential Standards were written using a variety of methodologies including previous and current practices, review and comment from various subject matter experts, review and comment from various government and non-government organizations, and a review of current state codes in Pennsylvania and Texas. Each standard is written in a manner that affords each resident admission and continuous housing to a family residential facility in a dignified and respectful manner. There are no specific codes, certifications, or accreditations that deal specifically with unique management requirements of families awaiting the outcome of their immigration proceeding in a non-secure custodial environment.

American Correctional Association 4th Edition Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities: 4-5C-01, 5C-02, 5C-03, 5C-04, 2A-66, 5A-01, 6B-04, 7B-03, 7C-02, 7F-05.

V. EXPECTED PRACTICES

1. Indoor and Outdoor Recreation

- a. Every facility will provide indoor and outdoor recreation, the size of which shall include consideration of state requirements for similar facilities. Additionally, each outdoor exercise area must provide ample outdoor green space for use by children and adults. This space should include shaded areas with seating, commercial-grade, age-appropriate play areas, a soccer-style field, and other athletic activity areas at the discretion of the facility administrator.
- b. Each indoor exercise area must provide a minimum of 2500 square feet of unencumbered space that provides access to age-appropriate play and physical education areas. Space considerations should include each facility allowing open access during daylight hours of operation. Indoor areas must provide at least 18-foot ceilings.
- c. Indoor and outdoor areas shall provide adjacent access to male and female restroom facilities.

2. Access to Structured Activities

Residents shall be provided with access to structured activities and programs. In particular, these programs and activities should be structured towards growth, development, and healthy living.

Facilities must provide daily indoor and outdoor recreational and other activities appropriate to the needs, interests, and abilities of families and children, so that every adult and child is able to participate.

3. Recreation Schedule

Every resident shall have daily access to indoor and/or outdoor recreation from 8:00 a.m. to dusk.

4. Physical Education Instructor

All facilities shall have an individual responsible for the development and oversight of the recreation program.

- a. Every facility shall employ a full-time physical education instructor with special training in implementing and overseeing a recreation program.
- b. The Physical Education Instructor shall be responsible for development and oversight of the recreational program.
- c. The Physical Education Instructor shall assess the recreation needs and interests of the residents.

5. General Requirements

- a. All facilities shall provide recreational opportunities for residents with disabilities.
- b. Recreation areas shall offer a variety of equipment.

- c. With the facility administrator's approval, recreational activities may include limited-contact sports, such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, and table games; and may include intramural competitions among units.
- d. Dayrooms shall offer board games, television, and other sedentary recreation activities. Residential staff shall supervise dayroom activities, distributing games and other recreation materials daily.
- e. All residents participating in recreation shall have access to drinking water and toilet facilities.
- f. Residential or recreation staff shall search recreation areas before and after their use to detect altered or damaged equipment. They shall also issue all portable equipment items, and check each item for damage and its general condition, upon its return.
- g. Recreation areas shall be under continuous supervision by staff equipped with radios or other communication devices, to ensure the safety of the residents.
- h. Residents may engage in independent recreation activities, such as board games and small-group activities.
- i. The facility administrator shall establish facility policy concerning television viewing in dayrooms. All television viewing schedules shall be subject to the facility administrator's approval.

6. Volunteer Program Involvement

A volunteer group may provide a special recreational or educational program consistent with availability of residential personnel to supervise the participating residents, with sufficient advance notification to the facility administrator.

The Residential Standard on "Visitation" details requirements that must be met for a volunteer to be approved to visit with and/or provide recreation activities for residents, including advance notice, identification, a background check, an orientation to the facility, and a written agreement to comply with applicable rules and procedures.

Standard Approved:



John P. Torres
Director
Office of Detention and Removal

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Date