Introduction:

Juvenile and adult correctional systems must provide services and programs in an environment that promotes and protects public safety and the safety, rights and dignity of staff, volunteers, victims and those persons served by these systems.

Policy Statement:

Sustaining safe, secure and constitutionally acceptable conditions of confinement requires adequate resources and effective management of staff, operational procedures, programs, the physical plant and the offender population. To support safe, secure and constitutionally acceptable conditions, agencies should:

A. Establish and maintain a safe and humane population limit for each facility and housing unit therein based upon recognized professional standards;

B. Provide an environment that will support the health and safety of staff, volunteers and confined persons. Such an environment results from appropriate design, construction and maintenance of the physical plant as well as the effective and efficient operation of the facility and the provision of adequate and appropriate services for offenders;

C. Maintain a professional and accountable work environment for staff that includes job-specific training and supervision, sufficient staffing and effective deployment of staff to carry out the mission of the facility; and

D. Maintain a fair and structured environment that provides a range of gender- and culturally-responsive programs and services appropriate to the needs and requirements of offenders in a climate that encourages responsible behavior and positive change.

This Public Correctional Policy was unanimously ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Congress of Correction in New Orleans, Aug. 6, 1987. It was last reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2017 Winter Conference in San Antonio, TX, January 24, 2017.