American Correctional Association

PUBLIC CORRECTIONAL POLICY ON FAMILY-FRIENDLY COMMUNICATION AND VISITATION

2016-1

Introduction:

Regular communication between offenders and their family and friends is proven to aid the reentry process and is consistent with sound correctional management.

Policy Statement:

Correctional agencies should promote communications between offenders and their family and friends and adopt family-friendly policies that:

A. Allow visitation, correspondence, phone calls and multiple forms of audio and visual communication;

B. Use emerging technologies as supplements to existing in-person visitation;

C. Do not place unreasonable financial burdens upon the offender or their family and friends;

D. Grant access to a range of reasonably priced telecommunications services that comply with all applicable state and federal regulations;

E. Establish rates and surcharges that are commensurate with those charged to the general public for like services and that any deviation from ordinary consumer rates should reflect actual costs associated with the provision of services within a correctional setting; and

F. Provide the broadest range of telecommunications options determined to be consistent with the requirements of sound correctional management.

This policy was unanimously ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the 146th Congress of Correction in Boston, MA on August 9, 2016.