American Correctional Association

PUBLIC CORRECTIONAL POLICY ON STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

1984-6

Introduction:

Adult and juvenile correctional agencies should provide community and institutional programs and services that offer a full range of effective, just, humane, and safe dispositions and sanctions for accused and adjudicated offenders. To assure accountability and professional responsibility, these programs and services should meet accepted professional and performance-based standards and obtain accreditation. The use of standards and the accreditation process provides a valuable mechanism for self-evaluation, stimulates improvement of correctional management and practice, and provides recognition of acceptable programs and facilities. The American Correctional Association and the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections have promulgated national standards and a voluntary system of national accreditation for correctional agencies. The beneficiaries of such a process are the staff of correctional agencies, offenders and the public.

Policy Statement:

All adult and juvenile detention and correctional facilities, institutional services and community programs should be operated in accordance with the performance-based standards established by the American Correctional Association. These facilities and programs should be accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. To fulfill this objective, correctional agencies should:

A. Implement improvements to comply with appropriate correctional standards including performance and outcome measurements; and

B. Seek and maintain accreditation through the process developed by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections in order that, through self-evaluation and peer review, necessary improvements are made, programs and services come into compliance with appropriate standards and professional recognition is obtained.

This Public Correctional Policy was ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Congress of Correction in San Antonio, TX, on Aug. 23, 1984. It was last reviewed, amended and reaffirmed at the 2019 ACA 149th Congress of Correction in Boston, MA on Aug. 3, 2019.