

<b>State of Vermont</b> <b>Agency of Human Services</b> <b>Department of Corrections</b>	<b>Title:</b>  Inmate Marriage		<b>Page 1 of 2</b>
<b>Chapter:</b>  <b>Facilities - General</b>	  <b># 310</b>	<b>Supersedes:</b>	
<b>Attachments, Forms &amp; Companion Documents:</b> All attachments, forms, and companion documents associated with this directive are available on the Department's website			
<b>Local Procedure(s) Required:</b> No <b>Applicability:</b> All staff (including volunteers and contractors) <b>Security Level:</b> "B"- Anyone may have access to this document.			
<b>Approved:</b>  <b>Lisa M. Menard, Commissioner</b> <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><u>                    </u> <b>Date Signed</b></span> <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><u>                    </u> <b>Date Effective</b></span>			

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2 **PURPOSE**

3 The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedure the Department of Corrections (DOC) shall  
4 follow when an inmate requests to marry while in a correctional facility.

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6 **PHILOSOPHY**

7 It is the philosophy of the DOC that strong relationships, including romantic relationships, can have a  
8 meaningful impact on the life of an inmate. The DOC believes that positive relationships and strong  
9 familial ties are important to the rehabilitation of an offender.

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11 **AUTHORITY**

12 18 V.S.A. § 5142; and 18 V.S.A. § 5144

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14 **REFERENCE**

15 Getting Married In Vermont – FAQ, Vermont Department of Health

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17 **POLICY**

18 It is the policy of the DOC to review all requests by inmates to marry on a case by case basis. This  
19 review shall verify that both parties are legally eligible to wed, and assess any safety or security  
20 concerns that may impact either of the parties getting married, or the correctional facility. All requests  
21 for marriage shall be reviewed by the inmate's assigned Corrections Services Specialist (CSS), the  
22 Superintendent of the facility, and the Commissioner of DOC. DOC shall allow inmates who would like

1 to attend some form of pre-marital counseling to meet with a religious leader or other counselor.

2 An inmate may wed another inmate, however married inmates shall not be housed together. Conjugal  
3 visits shall not be permitted and no allowances for additional correspondence, visits, or property shall be  
4 made for married inmates. Inmates, or their intended spouse, shall be responsible for any and all costs  
5 associated with the marriage and ceremony.

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