

SECTION 626 OF THE CITY CHARTER, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1977, EM-powered the Board of Correction to set minimum standards governing all of the City's correctional facilities. After a lengthy process, the enclosed 16 standards were adopted by the Board on February 14, 1978. Pursuant to the Variance standard, the Board has granted delays in some of the effective dates. Additional standards are being prepared to meet the concerns of all relevant constituencies. Prisoners and correctional personnel should direct comments and questions concerning the standards to the Board representative in their institution. For more information, contact Dan Pochoda, Director of the Minimum Standards Unit.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR NEW YORK CITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES CONTENTS

Part	
1	Non-Discriminatory Treatment
2	Classification
3	Overtime
4	Personal Hygiene
5	Overcrowding
6	Lock-in
7	Recreation
8	Religion
9	Access to Courts
10	Visiting
11	Telephone Calls
12	Correspondence
13	Packages
14	Publications
15	Access to Media
16	Variances

PART 1—NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT

Section	
1.1	Policy
1.2	Equal Protection
1.3	Hispanic Prisoners and Staff
1.4	Different Languages
1.5	Effective Date

Section 1.1 *Policy*

Prisoners shall not be subject to discriminatory treatment based upon race, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, age or political belief.

Section 1.2 *Equal Protection*

(a) Prisoners shall be afforded equal protection and equal opportunity in all decisions including, but not limited to, work and housing assignments, classification, and discipline.

(b) Prisoners shall be afforded equal protection and equal opportunity in being considered for any available programs including, but not limited to, educational, religious, vocational, recreational, or temporary release.

(c) Each institution shall provide programs, cultural activities and foods suitable for those racial and ethnic groups with significant representation in the prisoner population, including Black and Hispanic prisoners.

(d) Nothing contained in this Part shall prevent the Department from utilizing rational criteria for a particular program or opportunity.

Section 1.3 *Hispanic Prisoners and Staff*

(a) Each institution shall have a sufficient number of employees and volunteers fluent in the Spanish language to assist Hispanic prisoners in understanding, and participating in, the various institutional programs and activities, including use of the law library and parole applications.

(b) Bilingual prisoners in each housing unit should be utilized to assist Spanish-speaking prisoners in the unit and in the law library.

(c) Communications on any significant matter from correctional personnel to prisoners, including, but not limited to, orientation, legal research, institutional programs, medical procedures, minimum standards and disciplinary code shall be in Spanish and English.

(d) Communications on any significant matter from correctional personnel to outside individuals or organizations regularly involved with New York City prisoners shall be in Spanish and English.

(e) Spanish-speaking prisoners shall be afforded opportunities to read publications and newspapers printed in Spanish, and to hear radio and television programs broadcast in Spanish. Institutional libraries shall contain Spanish language books and materials.