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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD MINIMUM RULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS (THE NELSON MANDELA RULES)

HEALTH CARE



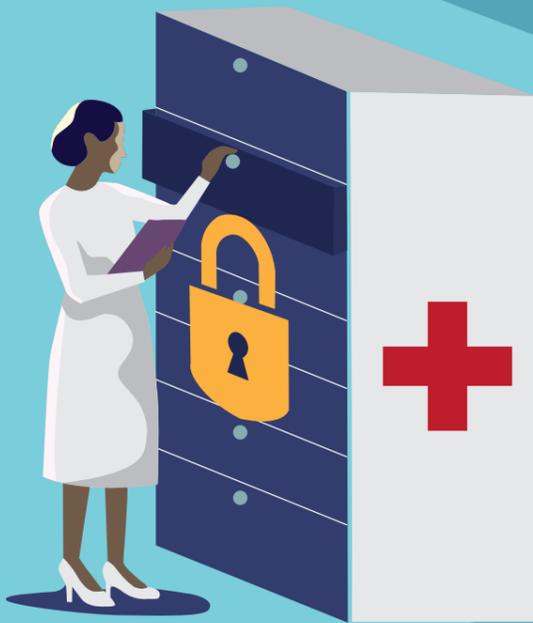
RULES 24, 25

PRISONERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE FREE OF CHARGE, INCLUDING DENTAL CARE. STANDARDS OF HEALTH CARE IN PRISONS SHOULD BE EQUAL TO THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY.



RULES 31, 32

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. PRISONERS SHOULD BE INFORMED ABOUT THEIR HEALTH CONDITIONS AND RECEIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT UPON THEIR CONSENT.



RULE 26

MEDICAL RECORDS ARE CONFIDENTIAL, ADMINISTERED BY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE PATIENT. OTHER PARTIES SHOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A PRISONER'S MEDICAL FILE.



RULE 24

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN PRISONS SHOULD CLOSELY LIAISE WITH COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE CONTINUED TREATMENT UPON ADMISSION AND UPON RELEASE.



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LEGAL AID



RULE 61

PRISONERS ARE ENTITLED TO ENGAGE A LEGAL ADVISOR OF THEIR OWN CHOICE ON ANY LEGAL MATTER. IN CASE THEY DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MEANS, THEY SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE SERVICES OF LEGAL AID PROVIDERS.



RULE 119

PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES ARE PROMPTLY INFORMED ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THEIR DETENTION AND ANY CHARGES AGAINST THEM. A LEGAL ADVISER SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MEANS TO PAY.



RULE 61

ANY COMMUNICATION WITH LEGAL ADVISORS OR LEGAL AID PROVIDERS IS CONFIDENTIAL AND UNCENSORED. LEGAL CONSULTATIONS MAY BE WITHIN SIGHT, BUT NOT WITHIN HEARING, OF PRISON STAFF.



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SEARCHES



RULE 50

WRITTEN POLICIES OR REGULATIONS DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW SEARCHES CAN BE CONDUCTED. EVERY SEARCH MUST BE PROPORTIONATE TO AN ACTUAL SECURITY RISK.



RULES 50, 51

SEARCHES OF PRISONERS OR CELLS ARE NOT USED TO INTIMIDATE OR HARASS PRISONERS. PRISON STAFF SHOULD BE RESPECTFUL OF THE PRIVACY AND DIGNITY OF PRISONERS IN THE COURSE OF SEARCHES.



RULE 52

INTRUSIVE SEARCHES, SUCH AS STRIP SEARCHES, ARE CARRIED OUT ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. IF SO, THEY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN PRIVATE AND BY TRAINED STAFF OF THE SAME SEX AS THE PRISONER.



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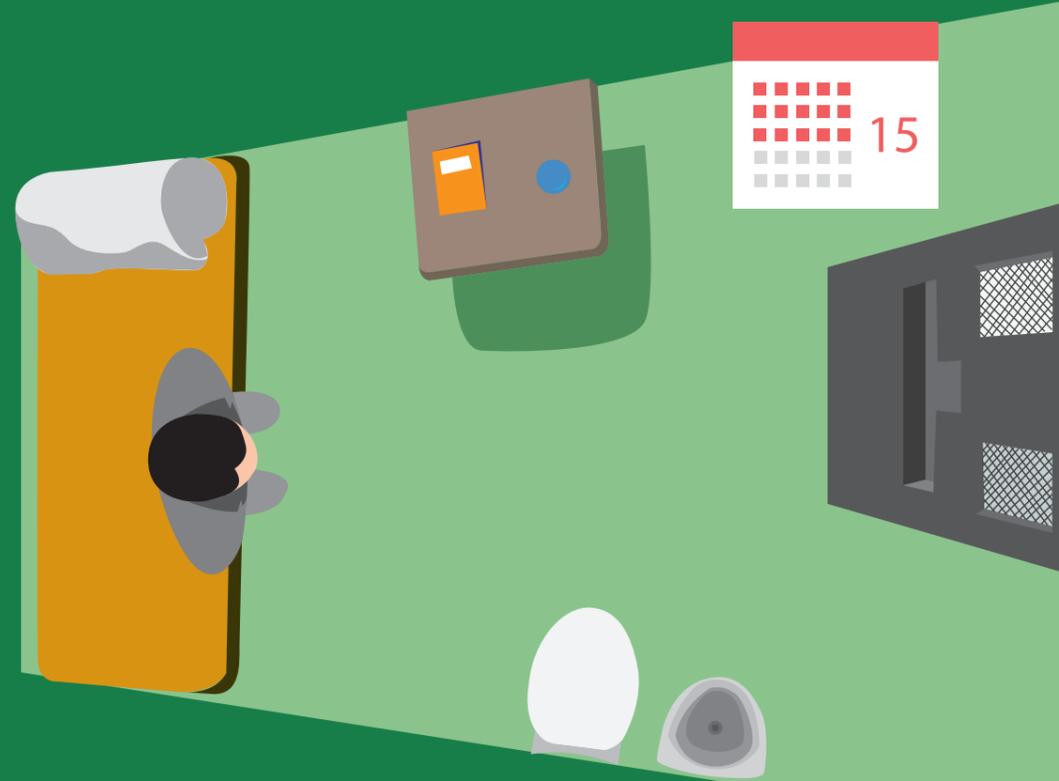
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RESTRICTIONS AND SANCTIONS

RULE 43

RESTRICTIONS AND SANCTIONS NEVER AMOUNT TO TORTURE OR OTHER FORMS OF ILL TREATMENT.



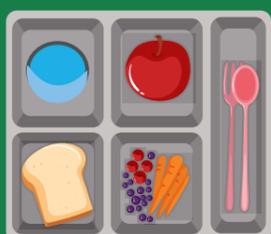
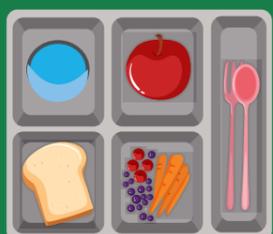
RULES 43, 44, 45

THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES ARE PROHIBITED:

- PLACEMENT OF A PRISONER IN A DARK OR CONSTANTLY LIT CELL
- CORPORAL PUNISHMENT
- COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT
- REDUCTION OF DIET OR DRINKING WATER
- PROHIBITION OF FAMILY CONTACT
- USE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RESTRAINT AS A SANCTION
- PROLONGED (> 15 DAYS) OR INDEFINITE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
- SOLITARY CONFINEMENT OF PREGNANT WOMEN, WOMEN WITH INFANTS, BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS, JUVENILES OR PRISONERS WITH DISABILITIES WHOSE HEALTH CONDITIONS WOULD DETERIORATE

RULES 44, 45

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, AS A MEASURE OF LAST RESORT AND FOR THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME PERIOD (<15 DAYS)



RULE 46

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS HAVE NO ROLE IN THE IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS AND SANCTIONS, BUT SHOULD PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PRISONERS UNDER SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, INCLUDING THROUGH DAILY VISITS.



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BASIC PRINCIPLES



RULES 1, 2

ALL PRISONERS ARE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. TORTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF ILL TREATMENT ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.



RULE 1

PRISONS SHOULD PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR STAFF, PRISONERS, VISITORS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.



RULES 4, 5

PRISON LIFE SHOULD RESEMBLE COMMUNITY LIFE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO PREPARE PRISONERS FOR THEIR SOCIAL REINTEGRATION UPON RELEASE.



RULES 2, 5

THE SPECIAL NEEDS AMONG CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PRISONERS ARE CATERED FOR IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEIR WELL-BEING AND, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, THEIR FULL ACCESS TO PRISON LIFE.