



State of North Carolina
Department of Public Safety
Prisons

Chapter: F
Section: .1700
Title: **Double Cell Housing**
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POLICY & PROCEDURES

References **5th Edition Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions**

Related ACA Standards **5-ACI-2C-02**

.1701 PURPOSE

The purpose of double cell **housing is** to increase the capacity of designated facilities by maximizing the allotted space.

.1702 DEFINITIONS

- (a) Double cell is the assignment of two **offenders** to a single cell. Each double cell will be equipped with two bunks and two lockers and have an available sink and toilet.
- (b) Designated Staff member is the staff member designated by the **Warden** that is responsible for making double cell assignment of **offenders**.

.1703 POLICY

This section establishes a method to double cell portions of single cell institutions or of single cell areas of other facilities designated by the **Commissioner** of Prisons. Only cells equipped with a sink and toilet fixtures and with adequate square footage will be subject to this designation.

.1704 APPLICATION

- (a) Only **offenders** classified in medium or minimum custody will be eligible for a double cell assignment.
- (b) Only **offenders** assigned to the regular population will be housed in a double cell assignment.
- (c) Use of the day rooms for **offender** housing in cell blocks designated for double cell will not be authorized and is prohibited.
- (d) No handicapped cells designated in the respective cell block will be double celled.

- (e) **Offenders** identified as high risk, or known sexual predators and abusers should be restricted from double cell housing.

.1705 PROCEDURES

- (a) Initial classification. Upon initial classification all **offenders** assigned to medium custody will be eligible for double cell housing. Assignment to a double cell will be accomplished by the **Warden** or **their** designee.
- (b) Classification Factors affecting double cell assignment. The following factors may be considered by the assignment authority when considering an assignment of an **offender** to a double cell **(5-ACI-2C-02)**:
- (1) Age.
 - (2) Current Violent Conviction.
 - (3) Current Detainer for Violent Offense.
 - (4) Prior Violent Convictions.
 - (5) Institutional Violence History.
 - (6) Escape History.
 - (7) Time Remaining on Sentence.
 - (8) Prior Institution Infraction History.
 - (9) Gang Affiliation.
 - (10) Previous Placements in **Restrictive Housing**.
 - (11) Previous Placements in Control Status.
 - (12) Medical Needs/Disability.
 - (13) Mental Health Needs.
 - (14) Probation/Parole Revocation.
 - (15) Probation/Parole Absconds.
 - (16) Custody Demotions.
 - (17) Family members may be a positive factor to consider in double celling.
 - (18) Sexual Victimization.
 - (19) Sexual Predators
 - (20) Other special needs identified for single cell housing.
- (c) Professional judgment of staff regarding an **offender's** inability to cope with a double cell environment could include the following factors:
- (1) **Offender** tends to be dominated by others.
 - (2) **Offender** tends to be a “loner” and communicates very little with staff or other **offenders**.
 - (3) **Offender** is viewed as likely “prey” for aggressive offenders due to size, appearance, and/or manner (timid/withdrawn).

- (4) Sexual orientation of offender.
 - (5) Previously removed from double-cell housing due to problems.
- (d) Request for reassignment.
- (1) Offender will have the opportunity to submit a request for a cell change to their Case Manager for distribution to the Unit Manager or their designee.
 - (2) The Unit Manager will review each request on the 1st and 15th of each month for their approval. Emergency cases will be reviewed as needed.
 - (3) Physical impairments can be considered as top priority for a bottom bed or a lower level cell assignment from the Unit Manager or their designee.
- (e) Initial classification review, as well as subsequent reviews and requests for cell changes, will be guided by safe and secure operating requirement of Prisons and personal safety needs of offender's subject to this policy.

.1706 OTHER CONDITIONS

- (a) Offender disagreement with regard to cell assignments may be grieved pursuant to the Administrative Remedy Procedure Policy G.0300.
- (b) The policy with regard to double cell will be implemented in a safe and secure manner.
- (c) The Commissioner of Prisons may make exceptions to this policy based on special circumstances.
- (d) Each facility with double cell housing areas must incorporate frequent checks of the double cell housing area to include rounds every 30 minutes by staff. Rounds should include visits to all single cells and to bunk sites where dayrooms are used for double cell housing.



Commissioner of Prisons

July 07, 2021

Date