



*State of North Carolina*  
*Department of Public Safety*  
*Prisons*

Chapter: F  
Section: .1700  
Title: **Double Cell Housing**  
Issue Date: 01/01/14  
Supersedes: 11/16/09

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**POLICY & PROCEDURES**

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**.1701 PURPOSE**

The purpose of double cell will be to increase the capacity of designated facilities by maximizing the allotted space.

**.1702 DEFINITIONS**

- (a) Double cell is the assignment of two inmates 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 Facility Head that is responsible for making double cell assignment of inmates.

**.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 Director 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 inmates classified in medium or minimum custody will be eligible for a double cell assignment.
- (b) Only inmates assigned to the regular population will be housed in a double cell assignment.
- (c) Use of the day rooms for inmate 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) Inmates 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 inmates assigned to medium custody will be eligible for double cell housing. Assignment to a double cell will be accomplished by the Facility Administrator or his/her designee.
- (b) Classification Factors affecting double cell assignment. The following factors may be considered by the assignment authority when considering an assignment of an inmate to a double cell.
  - (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 Segregation.
  - (11) Previous Placements in Control Status.
  - (12) Medical Needs.
  - (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.
- (c) Professional judgment of staff regarding an inmate's inability to cope with a double cell environment could include the following factors:
  - (1) Inmate tends to be dominated by others.
  - (2) Inmate tends to be a "loner" and communicates very little with staff or other inmates.
  - (3) Inmate is viewed as likely "prey" for aggressive inmates due to size, appearance, and/or manner (timid/withdrawn).
  - (4) Sexual orientation of inmate.
  - (5) Previously removed from double-cell housing due to problems.
- (d) Request for reassignment.

- (1) Inmate will have the opportunity to submit a request for a cell change to his Case Manager for distribution to the Unit Manager or his/her designee.
  - (2) The Unit Manager will review each request on the 1st and 15th of each month for his/her 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 his/her 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 inmates subject to this policy.

**.1706 OTHER CONDITIONS**

- (a) Inmate 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 Director 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.

 1/1/14  
Prisons Director                      Date

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