

Inmate/Offender Disciplinary Procedures.....	2
I. General Information	3
A. Definition of Terms.....	3
B. Training Disciplinary Hearing Officers, Disciplinary Coordinators and Staff (5-ACI-3C-04)	5
C. Time Frames.....	5
D. Use of Pre-hearing and Pending Investigation Detention	7
E. Signatures.....	7
F. Standard of Proof.....	7
G. Use of an Office of Inspector General (OIG) Investigation/Report	7
H. Violation of Criminal Law	7
II. The Offense Report (5-ACI-3C-05, 5-ACI-3C-07, 5-ACI-3C-08, 4-ACRS-6C-01, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#1).....	7
A. Preparation	7
B. Occurrence of Disciplinary Infractions.....	8
III. Service of the “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report” (DOC 060125A)	9
IV. Disciplinary Coordinator and Investigation of Charges	10
A. Disciplinary Coordinator.....	10
B. Investigation of Charges	11
C. Witnesses Requested by the Inmate	13
D. Guidelines for the use of Confidential Witness Testimony or Confidential Physical Evidence.....	14
E. Evidence	16
V. Assignment and Responsibilities of Staff Representatives	17
A. Assignment of a Staff Representative (5-ACI-3C-18, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#4)	17
B. Responsibilities of the Staff Representative (5-ACI-3C-18)	18
VI. Class A and Class B Violations.....	19
A. Disposition of Class A and Class B Violations	19
B. Responsibilities of Disciplinary Coordinator	19
C. Resolution of Class A or Class B Violations.....	20
D. Review of Disciplinary Actions	21
E. Dismissal of a Charge or Finding of Not Guilty	22
VII. Class X Violations and Class A and B Violations in Which Restitution is Being Sought	22
A. Inmate Disciplinary Hearing.....	22
B. Disciplinary Hearing Guidelines Conducted Via Telephone.....	23
C. Presence of Inmate During a Hearing.....	24
D. Finding.....	24
E. Review of Disciplinary Actions	25
F. Finding of Not Guilty	26
VIII. Appeal Process	26
A. Appeal to the Facility Head/Administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections (5-ACI-3C-23, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#9)	26
B. Appeal to the Administrative Review Authority (Class X Violations and Class A and B Violations if Restitution Was Imposed).....	28
C. Judicial Appeal.....	30
IX. Submitting a Disciplinary Appeal Out of Time (Only Class X Violations and Class A and B Violations in Which Restitution is Sought)	30
A. Denial of Appeal	30
X. Notification of Pardon and Parole Board Authorities	31
A. Parole Consideration	31

Section-06 Classification	OP-060125	Page: 2	Effective Date: 10/09/2023
----------------------------------	------------------	----------------	-----------------------------------

B. Appeal Process.....	31
XI. Dismissal of the Offense Report (5-ACI-3C-21)	31
A. Expungements of Records.....	31
B. Restoration of Revoked Earned Credits.....	32
C. Restoration of Earned Credit Level.....	32
XII. Deferred Disposition Process (4-ACRS-6C-01, 4-ACRS-6C-04)	32
XIII. Authority to Intervene.....	32
A. Intervention of Disciplinary Action.....	32
B. Expungement.....	32
XIV. Reporting Requirements.....	32
A. Misconduct Reporting.....	33
XV. Variations of Normal Procedures for Inmates Housed at Contract Facilities.....	33
XVI. References	33
XVII. Action.....	34
Referenced Forms	35
Attachments	36

Section-06 Classification and Case Management	OP-060125	Page: 2	Effective Date: 10/09/2023
Disciplinary Procedures	ACA Standards: 2-CO-3C-01, 5-ACI-3C-01, 5-ACI-3C-02, 5-ACI-3C-03, 5-ACI-3C-04, 5-ACI-3C-05, 5-ACI-3C-06, 5-ACI-3C-07, 5-ACI-3C-08, 5-ACI-3C-09, 5-ACI-3C-10, 5-ACI-3C-11, 5-ACI-3C-12, 5-ACI-3C-13, 5-ACI-3C-14, 5-ACI-3C-15, 5-ACI-3C-16, 5-ACI-3C-17, 5-ACI-3C-18, 5-ACI-3C-19, 5-ACI-3C-20, 5-ACI-3C-21, 5-ACI-3C-22, 5-ACI-3C-23, 4-ACRS-3A-01, through 4-ACRS-3A-03, 4-ACRS-6A-03, 4-ACRS-6C-01 through 4-ACRS-6C-04		
Steven Harpe, Director Oklahoma Department of Corrections			

Inmate/Offender Disciplinary Procedures

This procedure is intended to provide guidance to staff in the day-to-day operation of the agency. It is not intended to and does not grant any right to any inmate as the right to due process protection comes from the Constitution. (4-ACRS-6A-03)

“Acts Constituting Rule Violation” ([Attachment A](#), attached) of this procedure defines all inmate disciplinary rule violations and specifies the allowable range of disciplinary sanctions authorized by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC) for each violation. The referenced attachment, containing the disciplinary rule violations, will be posted at each facility for review by all inmates. (2-CO-3C-01, 5-ACI-3C-01, 4-ACRS-3A-02, 4-ACRS-3A-03, 4-ACRS-6C-04)

All personnel who have contact with inmates/offenders will receive training so that they are familiar with the rules of inmate conduct, the rationale for the rules, and the disciplinary sanctions available. (5-ACI-3C-04) The Administrative Review Authority will ensure the lesson plans for this training are submitted for approval in accordance with [OP-100101](#) entitled “Training and Staff Development.” This procedure will be reviewed annually and a rulebook, including all chargeable offenses, penalties and disciplinary procedures, will

be given to all inmates through facility orientation. (5-ACI-3C-02, 5-ACI-3C-03, 4-ACRS-3A-01, 4-ACRS-3A-02) To provide for uniformity of the hearings, the "Disciplinary Hearing Guide" ([Attachment B](#), attached) is provided. The disciplinary hearing officer is encouraged to utilize this attachment as a guide during the hearing.

Any "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) completed prior to the effective date of this procedure will be governed by the prior version of this procedure.

I. General Information

A. Definition of Terms

1. Administrative Review Authority (ARA)

The agency director's designee to whom Class X and restitution misconduct appeals are submitted for final review.

2. Charged

After the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) has been submitted to the disciplinary coordinator and the inmate has received a copy, the inmate is considered "charged."

3. Civilian

Civilian, as used in this operating procedure, refers to any person who is not a staff member and who is not an inmate.

4. Direct Involvement

The activities below constitute direct involvement in the disciplinary process, and a staff member who has direct involvement is prohibited from conducting the investigation, conducting the disciplinary hearing or being a staff representative; however, neither the serving of an "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) nor awareness of the offense constitutes direct involvement.

a. Directly witnessed the offense or reviewed/referred/prepared the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached).

b. Involved in or witnessed the events leading to and/or immediately following the offense.

c. Engaged in any activity, which may compromise the ability to function objectively, e.g., family relationship between staff

member writing the offense report and/or the disciplinary hearing officer, the disciplinary coordinator, the staff representative or a person involved in the offense (victim or witness).

5. Disciplinary Hearing/Disposition

The review of the evidence and the disposition of the offense report.

6. Informal Resolution of Class A and Class B Infractions (4-ACRS-6C-01)

The attempt by staff to handle a Class A or Class B rule infraction committed by an inmate without having to document the infraction with an offense report. This is at the discretion of shift supervisors/unit managers or higher, and can include informal discipline. Informal discipline may include, but is not limited to extra duty, written reprimand, additional program requirements such as a "reflective report", or reduction/suspension of privileges. Informal discipline will be documented with an entry in the case notes.

7. Preparation Period

The preparation period is that period of time in which an inmate can gather/review facts, documents, and all evidence and reports in order to prepare a defense.

8. Private Contract Facility

Any private prison/jail or other non-agency facility or entity who contracts with ODOC to house inmates assigned to the custody of the ODOC.

9. Restitution

Restitution is a penalty imposed on the inmate by the disciplinary hearing officer upon a finding of guilt for an offense causing economic loss when evidence of economic loss is introduced. If more than one inmate is found guilty of the violation, the inmates are jointly and individually liable for the total amount of restitution. An inmate may be assessed restitution as a sanction even though the rule violation that resulted in the economic loss was a lesser offense than the one charged, so long as there is evidence introduced that supports the inmate's guilt in causing the economic loss. Restitution will not be imposed if criminal charges are to be filed.

10. Staff Member

Staff member, as used in this operating procedure, refers to any employee, student intern, volunteer, contract facility employee, CareerTech employee, and any individual who works with inmates in an official capacity.

11. Facility Head

Facility head will apply to wardens, administrators of community corrections facilities, or administrators of facilities responsible for housing inmates in the custody of the ODOC.

12. Inmate

Any individual under the authority, custody or care of a prison or a community-based facility operated by or contracted with the ODOC, as well as those under supervision of a specialized program supervised by Probation and Parole Services.

B. Training Disciplinary Hearing Officers, Disciplinary Coordinators and Staff (5-ACI-3C-04)

1. Facility heads/administrators of Institutions/Community Corrections will appoint employees, pay band H and above, to serve as disciplinary hearing officers who will preside at the disciplinary hearings and impose the appropriate disciplinary sanction as required.
2. Facility heads/administrators of Institutions/Community Corrections will appoint a supervisory staff member, including sergeants, as a disciplinary coordinator who will coordinate the disciplinary functions of the facility and ensure that the facility complies with this operating procedure. Facility heads/administrators of Institutions/Community Corrections will appoint a back-up disciplinary coordinator to act in the absence of the primary disciplinary coordinator.
3. Staff representatives will be appointed when required in this operating procedure.
4. Facility heads/ administrators of Institutions/Community Corrections will ensure all disciplinary hearing officers, disciplinary coordinators and staff are trained in the disciplinary process prior to assuming responsibilities in the process and as significant changes occur. Correctional training officers (CTO) will provide training to the disciplinary hearing officers and staff at the facilities and regions. The ARA will provide training to the disciplinary coordinators.

C. Time Frames

1. Staff will follow the timeframes provided in this section. Failure to comply with the timeframes indicated below will result in the dismissal of the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached). Extensions of timeframes may be permitted in accordance with the procedures below.
2. All timeframes will exclude weekends and holidays unless otherwise stated. If the last date of any time period falls on a weekend, holiday, or a date in which non-essential employees are permitted to take administrative leave at an affected facility, the time period will be extended to the next business day. (5-ACI-5C-05, 5-ACI-3C-13)
3. Extensions of any timeframe for reasonable cause(s) will be documented on the "Disciplinary Process Extension" ([DOC 060125O](#), attached) and attached to the offense report. The first extension permitted will not exceed fifteen (15) days. Any subsequent extensions will not exceed seven (7) days. All extensions will be signed by the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections. The inmate will receive documented notification of the extension. Disciplinary hearings may be postponed in accordance with Section VII. of this procedure.
4. The offense report will be prepared and submitted to a supervisor within twenty-four (24) hours from when the violation is reported and/or discovered, an OIG investigation is complete, or when an escapee or walkaway is confirmed or returned to ODOC custody.
5. The supervisor will review and forward the offense report to the disciplinary coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours of the supervisor's receipt of the offense report.
6. The disciplinary coordinator will do the following within seven (7) days from the disciplinary coordinator's receipt of the offense report:
 - a. Serve the "Offense Report" within seventy-two (72) hours after it has been referred for investigation, unless postponed.
 - b. For Class X violations and Class A and B violations in which restitution is sought: conduct the investigation, accept a plea of guilty and impose sanction(s), dismiss the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) or forward the offense report, "Disciplinary Coordinator's Report" ([DOC 060125B](#), attached) and attachments to the disciplinary hearing officer.
 - c. For Class A and B violations: conduct the investigation, accept a plea of guilty and impose a negotiated sanction(s), dismiss or defer the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) or find the inmate

guilty and impose the appropriate sanction for the Class A or Class B violation.

7. The disciplinary hearing will occur within seven (7) days from the date the disciplinary hearing officer receives the offense report from the disciplinary coordinator. (5-ACI-3C-13)

D. Use of Pre-hearing and Pending Investigation Detention

The inmate may be placed in pre-hearing and pending investigation detention prior to a hearing or disposition according to the guidelines established in [OP-040204](#) entitled "Special Management Units." (5-ACI-3C-10)

E. Signatures

All signatures will be legible and include the printed name of the employee signing their name underneath or next to the signature.

F. Standard of Proof

In order for an inmate to be found guilty of a rule violation, the trier of fact will find that there is some or any evidence that the inmate committed the rule violation charged.

G. Use of an Office of Inspector General (OIG) Investigation/Report

When an offense report is based on evidence contained in an OIG investigation/report, the summary page(s) may be used as documentary evidence to support the offense report. Any information contained in the summary page(s) of the investigation that is confidential or contains the identity of confidential witnesses, and any information that may pose a risk to the safety of an informant will be redacted. The redacted copy of the summary page(s) will be provided to the inmate as documentary evidence.

H. Violation of Criminal Law

When an inmate allegedly commits an act that is also a violation of a criminal law, the case may be referred by the facility head or the inspector general to the local district attorney for charges to be filed. (5-ACI-3C-06)

II. The Offense Report (5-ACI-3C-05, 5-ACI-3C-07, 5-ACI-3C-08, 4-ACRS-6C-01, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#1)

A. Preparation

Upon the reasonable belief that a violation of rules has occurred, an offense report may be prepared by any staff member. The offense will be reported, approved by the appropriate staff member, and investigated by the

disciplinary coordinator.

B. Occurrence of Disciplinary Infractions

1. Normally, only one offense report will be written per incident. However, if more than one infraction occurs as a result of a single incident in which there is more than one rule violation, separate offense reports may only be written for distinctly different behavior. For example, if multiple types of contraband are found, one offense report will be written. However, if contraband is found and the inmate resists apprehension, two offense reports may be warranted.
 2. The facts regarding violations not charged that occurred during a single incident can be considered in determining the appropriate sanction for Class A and B offenses.
 3. If a violation of a rule results in damages wherein restitution will be sought as a sanction but the rule violation is not the most serious violation, restitution may be ordered as a sanction for the most serious violation to cover all damages, including the damages of a violation not charged.
- C. The “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report” ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) will identify a specific rule violation as outlined in “Acts Constituting Rule Violation” ([Attachment A](#), attached) to give the inmate notice of the offending behavior, as well as the date and approximate time of the offense, to allow for preparation of a defense. (5-ACI-3C-05, 5-ACI-3C-11, 4-ACRS-6C-02) The reporting employee will ensure that the offense report contains the elements of who, what, when, where and how before it is submitted. If restitution is being sought for an offense that is not the most serious offense, there will be sufficient information contained in the offense report to justify a sanction of restitution. (5-ACI-3C-08)
- D. The “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report” ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) will be prepared and submitted to the appropriate shift supervisor/unit manager/team supervisor within twenty-four (24) hours. The supervisor will review the report to ensure it is complete, correct, legible, and understandable. If necessary, the offense report will be corrected by the supervisor or returned to the writer for corrections. The supervisor will forward the offense report to the disciplinary coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours of the supervisor’s receipt of the offense report.
- E. The supervisor may recommend informal disposition for a Class A or Class B infraction prior to approving the charge of offense through a verbal warning, dismissal due to lack of evidence, or take informal action. (4-ACRS-6C-01). Class A or Class B offense reports handled informally will still be logged on the “Facility Misconduct Report Record” (DOC 060125D, attached) and case notes.

Section-06 Classification	OP-060125	Page: 9	Effective Date: 10/09/2023
---------------------------	-----------	---------	----------------------------

- F. Clerical errors in a completed offense report will not invalidate the report. Corrections may be made by the reporting staff member, reviewing supervisor, disciplinary coordinator, disciplinary hearing officer and/or a supervisor. Corrected copies will be provided to the inmate. If the inmate could not have known of the correct information and the information is material to a determination of guilt, an additional twenty-four (24) hour preparation period will be offered and provided unless it is waived by the inmate. Items such as misspelled names, incorrect ODOC number or failure to put am/pm on reports are not always material and can be verified and corrected at the hearing without an extension.
- G. The “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report” ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) will be distributed as follows:
1. The original will be maintained in the inmate commitment document folder in accordance with [OP-060212](#) entitled “Maintenance and Access of Inmate/Offender Records.”
 2. A copy will be provided to the inmate.
 3. A copy will be filed in section six (6) of the inmate field record.
 4. A copy will be maintained by the facility head. (5-ACI-3C-20, 4-ACRS-6C-03)

III. Service of the “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report” (DOC 060125A)

- A. The offense report will be served to an inmate within seventy-two (72) hours after the offense report has been referred for investigation, unless postponed, but no less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the disciplinary hearing/disposition. (5-ACI-3C-11, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#2, b#3) Offense reports for escape, prepared prior to the inmate’s return to ODOC, do not have to be served until the inmate is returned to an ODOC facility.

If the inmate is unable or unavailable to receive a copy of the offense report within the seventy-two (72) hours, the timeframe for service will be extended in accordance with Section I. C. item 3. of this procedure. (5-ACI-3C-11, 4-ACRS-6C-02)

- B. Upon service of the offense report to the inmate, the disciplinary coordinator will ensure Section III. of the report is completed before a copy is given to the inmate.
- C. The inmate may waive the right to a disciplinary hearing/disposition and/or plead guilty. The disciplinary coordinator serving the inmate will ensure the inmate understands that waiving the right to a hearing/disposition will result in sanctions being imposed immediately by the disciplinary coordinator. When the inmate waives a hearing or pleads guilty, there will be no formal

hearing. The waiver or plea of guilty also constitutes a waiver of the appeal process by the inmate. Waivers or guilty pleas will be documented and reviewed by the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee. (5-ACI-3C-05, 5-ACI-3C-12)

- D. If the hearing/disposition is not waived, the inmate will be provided the opportunity for a twenty-four (24) hour preparation period. (5-ACI-3C-13, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#3) The inmate may waive the twenty-four (24) hour preparation period; however, the waiver will be in writing and signed by the inmate.

IV. Disciplinary Coordinator and Investigation of Charges

A. Disciplinary Coordinator

1. The disciplinary coordinator will be responsible for the processing and distribution of all records and reports under the operating procedure unless the responsibility is expressly delegated to another.
2. The disciplinary coordinator will, upon receipt of the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached), log the offense report on the "Mental Health Disciplinary Process Consultation Log" ([DOC 060125M](#), attached). The log will be submitted to the mental health authority or designee, and the mental health authority or designee will return the log to the disciplinary coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours, excluding weekends and holidays.
 - a. For inmates with mental health classification level of B, C1, C2 or D, the mental health authority or designee will complete a "Mental Health Recommendations Regarding Inmate Discipline" ([DOC 060125R](#), attached) and return the form which may be in an electronic format, along with the log, to the assigned disciplinary coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt, excluding weekends and holidays. (5-ACI-6C-06)
 - b. The "Mental Health Recommendations Regarding Inmate Discipline" ([DOC 060125R](#), attached) will remain with the original copy of the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) throughout the remainder of the disciplinary process.
3. In addition to the administrative duties, the disciplinary coordinator will have authority to:

- a. Amend a charge laterally or to a lesser charge on an offense report in accordance with the provisions of Section IV. B. item 8. of this procedure;
 - b. Defer prosecution of Class A and B offense reports in accordance with the provisions of Section XII. of this procedure; and
 - c. Dismiss an offense report, prior to a hearing/disposition, which does not serve the disciplinary interests of the facility.
4. If an offense report is deferred, dismissed or the charge amended, the disciplinary coordinator will send a copy of the relevant forms to the facility head.

B. Investigation of Charges

1. The investigation of the alleged offense will be the responsibility of the facility where the offense occurred. If the inmate has been transferred before the conclusion of the investigation or hearing, the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections of the receiving facility will cooperate with the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections of the facility where the offense occurred and provide assistance, if requested. The disciplinary coordinator is responsible for conducting the investigation, gathering all relevant evidence and/or witness statements and will accept any relevant documentary evidence submitted by the inmate during the investigation. (5-ACI-3C-18) The disciplinary coordinator will obtain the inmate's statement regarding the offense and will contact any staff member or inmate who, in the disciplinary coordinator's judgment, may have information pertaining to the offense, and obtain from the inmate a summary of expected testimony of a requested witness, as a condition of the witness being contacted.

When Class X violations or Class A and B violations in which restitution will be sought as a sanction are forwarded to the disciplinary hearing officer for a disciplinary hearing, the disciplinary coordinator is to act as a neutral party by making no determination of guilt or innocence.

2. If the inmate chooses to plead guilty during the investigation or when served, the disciplinary coordinator will ensure the inmate initials the appropriate line on Section III of the offense report and signs and dates the form as required.
 - a. The disciplinary coordinator has the authority to negotiate with an inmate regarding sanctions for a Class A and Class B offense that will be imposed should the inmate choose to

plead guilty. The available sanctions the disciplinary coordinator may impose will be in accordance with “Acts Constituting Rule Violation” ([Attachment A](#), attached) and are subject to the approval of the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections. The disciplinary coordinator may also amend the charge of a Class A and Class B as part of a negotiated plea of guilty.

- b. The disciplinary coordinator will complete the relevant disciplinary documents for an amended Class A and Class B charge and/or the negotiated sanction imposed.
3. Coercion by the disciplinary coordinator, disciplinary hearing officer or any staff member for a guilty plea or dismissal of charges is prohibited. Coercion is defined as the actual or threatened use of physical force or the actual or threatened withholding of a right or privilege to which the inmate is entitled under [P-030100](#) entitled “Provision of Services/Inmate Rights and Responsibilities.” Negotiations between the disciplinary coordinator, disciplinary hearing officer and the inmate regarding an amended charge or sanctions to be imposed, in accordance with “Acts Constituting Rule Violation” ([Attachment A](#), attached), does not constitute coercion.
4. Investigations will be conducted in the following manner:
 - a. When an alleged rule violation is reported and referred for investigation, the investigation will be initiated within twenty-four (24) hours of the date the offense report is referred to the disciplinary coordinator. The investigation will be completed without unreasonable delay unless circumstances dictate a need for extending the investigation. (5-ACI-3C-09)
 - b. The disciplinary coordinator will review the offense report and complete the “Disciplinary Coordinator’s Report” ([DOC 060125B](#), attached) as it relates to the offense. An investigation will be performed by speaking to the accused inmate and any witnesses. Additional facts will be submitted by the disciplinary coordinator, which includes all relevant information pertinent to the charge, to include any mitigating or exculpatory information (that information which indicates innocence).

For all investigations of Class X violations and Class A and B violations in which restitution is being sought, the disciplinary coordinator will not include personal opinions. If the inmate pleads guilty, the disciplinary coordinator will impose sanctions on the “Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X or Violation Involving Restitution)” ([DOC 060125C](#), attached) or the “Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses

Without Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C-1](#), attached), whichever is appropriate.

c. If the inmate refuses to cooperate with the investigation, the refusal to cooperate will be documented, and the investigation will be completed and the "Disciplinary Coordinator's Report" ([DOC 060125B](#), attached) will be completed in its entirety.

5. Disciplinary coordinators are responsible for ensuring that a copy of the inmate's "Consolidated Record Card" ([DOC 060211H](#)) (front and back of the card) is attached to the disciplinary paperwork for review by the disciplinary hearing officer. The inmate does not receive a copy of this documentation.

6. Amendment of Rule Violation

A charge may be amended by the use of "Amendment of Rule Violation" ([DOC 060125G](#), attached). The inmate will be notified and offered an opportunity of twenty-four (24) hours, unless waived, to prepare if the hearing is already scheduled to be conducted within twenty-four (24) hours of service of the amended disciplinary charge. A charge may be amended by the disciplinary coordinator, disciplinary hearing officer or the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections.

7. All pleas of guilty with a negotiated sanction imposed are subject to approval by the facility head/ administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections. Negotiated sanctions cannot be increased but may be modified or reduced.

C. Witnesses Requested by the Inmate

1. The inmate will be given the opportunity to make a statement and present relevant documentary evidence to the disciplinary coordinator and/or the disciplinary hearing officer. The inmate may request relevant witnesses on the inmate's behalf. (5-ACI-3C-17, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b #6)

2. In regard to witnesses, the disciplinary coordinator may elect to take statements in lieu of allowing direct testimony, disqualify a witness if testimony is not material to the offense (e.g., character witness), or may limit the number of witnesses if the testimony is repetitive and/or duplicative. The disciplinary coordinator may also disqualify any proposed witness who has no direct knowledge of the incident. Any discretionary action taken by the disciplinary coordinator as to a witness will be documented by utilizing the "Witness Discretionary Action Record" ([DOC 060125I](#), attached) and attached to the

“Disciplinary Coordinator’s Report” ([DOC 060125B](#), attached). (5-ACI-3C-17)

3. Whether the inmate requests or presents witnesses or not, this will be clearly documented by marking the appropriate box on the “Disciplinary Coordinator’s Report” ([DOC 060125B](#), attached). When written statements are taken, the disciplinary coordinator will document the acceptance of the written statement by completing the “Witness Discretionary Action Record” ([DOC 060125I](#), attached).
4. Reasonable attempts will be made to locate all identified witnesses; however, it is the inmate’s responsibility to provide sufficient information to properly identify a witness. If witnesses cannot be located, the disciplinary coordinator will document the efforts made to locate the witnesses on the “Witness Discretionary Action Record” ([DOC 060125I](#), attached). If an inmate refuses to identify a witness it will be the inmate’s responsibility to gather any statements and provide them to the disciplinary coordinator. Such statements will be verifiable or will not be considered credible.
5. Witnesses who decline to provide a statement will not be forced to provide a statement or made to testify.
6. Inmates may only request witnesses during the investigation of the offense. However, inmates may present witness statements directly to the disciplinary hearing officer at the hearing. Such witnesses will be verifiable or may not be considered reliable. If the inmate fails to request witnesses from the disciplinary coordinator and fails to provide any witness statements to the disciplinary hearing officer, it will constitute a waiver by the inmate.

D. Guidelines for the use of Confidential Witness Testimony or Confidential Physical Evidence

1. If confidential witness testimony constitutes a portion of the evidence, the name and testimony of the confidential witnesses will be documented thoroughly, stating the facts as submitted by the witness and the manner in which knowledge of those facts were acquired. Such documentation will be signed by the confidential witness and/or the staff taking the testimony. Each page will be labeled “confidential,” placed in an envelope and sealed. Should the informant decline or refuse to sign the statement the staff member taking the information will document such refusal. A staff member cannot be a confidential witness for purposes of this operating procedure.
 - a. An evaluation regarding the reliability of the confidential witness will be prepared by staff taking the testimony and attached to the sealed confidential witness testimony. This

evaluation will be submitted with the "Disciplinary Coordinator's Report" ([DOC 060125B](#), attached).

- b. Confidential testimony will only be used to protect the identity of a witness or if the release of such might pose a threat to the security of a facility, staff member, another inmate, or any other person. Confidential information will not be accepted in exchange for avoiding charges, the granting or denial of privileges, or intervening in an inmate's current status.
2. Reports from other agencies, such as police arrest reports, or internal agency reports, such as chronological reports, are not confidential material unless they contain the name or identity of a confidential informant, the release of which might pose a threat to the safety of the informant. If such information is contained in a report, the information will be removed from the report and the report provided to the inmate only if the identity of the informant will not be revealed.
3. If confidential witness testimony is admitted, the anonymity of the confidential witness will be maintained. If the testimony is not clear from the offense report and/or incident report, the disciplinary hearing officer/coordinator will describe to the accused inmate the substance of the confidential testimony in general terms so as to protect the identity of the witness and inform the inmate of what evidence/information has been provided.
 - a. For the taped record, when the hearing convenes, the disciplinary hearing officer will state in the presence of the inmate if confidential testimony will be part of the evidence presented.
 - b. Confidential evidence will be reviewed by the disciplinary hearing officer/coordinator to determine the reliability of the confidential witness and whether the confidential testimony will be considered. If considered and found to be reliable and relevant, the disciplinary hearing officer/coordinator will submit the following written statement, which will include the inmate's name, number, offense, and date of offense:

"I have independently reviewed the reliability statement and confidential testimony and have found it to be sufficiently reliable."

The statement will be signed by the disciplinary coordinator during the disposition, read, and signed by the disciplinary hearing officer during the hearing. The inmate and/or staff representative will not be present for this review.

4. If confidential physical evidence is used, a “Review of Evidence” ([DOC 060125P](#), attached) will be completed by the disciplinary coordinator describing the evidence in general terms. The inmate will not be allowed to possess or view the material. Examples of confidential evidence would be the plans for manufacturing weapons, bombs, drugs, etc.

E. Evidence

1. Physical material constituting evidence of the alleged violation will be confiscated, labeled, and secured in the facility’s designated area in accordance with [OP-040109](#) entitled “Control of Contraband and Physical Evidence” and [OP-040110](#) entitled “Search and Seizure Standards” and will be retained for one (1) year following the final appeal in the disciplinary matter.
2. If such evidence is too voluminous to be readily secured, it may be photographed or photocopied and described in its original state. Samples and photographs or photocopies will be retained until the appeal process is complete; photographs or photocopies will also be attached to the offense report.
3. Evidence relevant and/or material to the alleged offense will be viewed by the disciplinary coordinator who will ensure a field test is completed if identification remains uncertain of any substance(s).
 - a. If a photograph, photocopy, video or audio of the evidence is not attached to the disciplinary paperwork, a detailed description of the evidence shall be completed by the disciplinary coordinator during the investigation on the “Review of Evidence” ([DOC 060125P](#), attached).
 - b. If a copy of the “Review of Evidence” ([DOC 060125P](#), attached) is not attached to the offense report, the evidence, or the photographs or photocopies of the evidence, laboratory reports, etc., will be reviewed by the disciplinary hearing officer/coordinator during the hearing or disposition.
 - c. If videotapes or audiotapes are part of the evidence, the disciplinary hearing officer/coordinator and the inmate may review those items and such review will be documented. If, however, security concerns prohibit the inmate from reviewing the video or audio, the specific security concern will be documented and provided to the inmate. If review is prohibited, the disciplinary coordinator will complete a “Review of Evidence” ([DOC 060125P](#), attached) describing the inmate’s specific actions and/or offending behavior.

4. Breathalyzer, urinalysis, or blood tests will be administered in accordance with [OP-030134](#) entitled "Chemical Abuse Testing." If such test is administered, photocopies or photographs of the urinalysis results will be part of the evidence and attached to the offense report.
 - a. A list of current medications will be provided by the facility qualified health care provider for each inmate who tests positive as a result of a chemical abuse test. This list of medications will be compared to the test kit package insert by the disciplinary coordinator or disciplinary hearing officer to determine if any of the medications may have affected the test result.
 - b. If the test kit is such that no photocopy can be made of the results of the urinalysis, then at least two staff members will prepare incident reports of their observations of the test and the results. Test kits utilizing human body fluids of any kind will be handled and disposed of as a contaminant in accordance with [OP-030134](#) entitled "Chemical Abuse Testing."
 - c. Staff will use caution and not place the test kits on any copy machine due to the biohazard the kits present to other staff members. If a photocopy will be made, the employee will ensure the glass is cleaned and disinfected in accordance with universal precautions.
 - d. Breathalyzer, urinalysis, or blood tests are not required to establish that an inmate/offender is under the influence of a chemical substance. In lieu of testing, staff members may document their observations of the inmate/offender (e.g., slurred speech, smell, uneven walk, etc.).
5. Photocopies of incident reports, witness statements or evidence, other than confidential witness statements or evidence, utilized for writing the offense report or discovered during the investigation will be provided to the inmate at least twenty-four (24) hours before the disciplinary hearing/disposition. Exceptions will be documented with justification. (5-ACI-3C-11, 4-ACRS-6C-02)
6. If evidence requested by the inmate is found not to exist, the disciplinary coordinator will document this finding.

V. Assignment and Responsibilities of Staff Representatives

- A. Assignment of a Staff Representative (5-ACI-3C-18, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#4)

A staff representative may be assigned for any level of offense. A staff representative will be assigned only when an inmate is incapable of reading and/or understanding the charge or when an interpreter may be required. The staff representative will assist prior to and during the hearing/disposition. Staff representatives are assigned to help inmates only to understand the charges against them, the disciplinary hearing/disposition process, the process for presenting their version of the charges, and the process to appeal. Staff representatives will not act on behalf of, or serve as advocates for inmates. Inmates may not act as staff representatives, but inmates may be utilized by a staff representative as an interpreter, if a staff interpreter is unavailable.

1. If a staff representative is assigned during the investigation, the inmate will be provided the opportunity to meet with the staff representative and prepare prior to the scheduled hearing or disposition. The assigned staff representative will document all meetings with the inmate.
2. During the investigation, if the disciplinary coordinator determines a staff representative is warranted, the "Assignment of Staff Representative" ([DOC 060125U](#), attached) will be completed by the disciplinary coordinator. A copy will be included with the "Disciplinary Coordinator's Report" ([DOC 060125B](#), attached).
3. Staff representatives and interpreters will be assigned by the facility head/administrators of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee.

B. Responsibilities of the Staff Representative (5-ACI-3C-18)

1. The staff representative will attend the disciplinary hearing/disposition with the inmate.
2. The staff representative will be impartial in the roles and responsibilities as defined:
 - a. Will consult with the inmate before the hearing/disposition;
 - b. Will explain the charge against the inmate and the potential sanctions;
 - c. Will explain the ramifications of a guilty plea;
 - d. Will assist the inmate in understanding the disciplinary process including the process for appeal;
 - e. Will assist the inmate in understanding the process of presenting their version of the charges;

- f. Will attend the hearing/disposition with the inmate; and
- g. When required, will assist the inmate in communicating with the disciplinary coordinator and/or the disciplinary hearing officer.

VI. Class A and Class B Violations

A. Disposition of Class A and Class B Violations

All Class A and Class B violations will be disposed of by the disciplinary coordinator without the necessity of a disciplinary hearing, unless restitution is being sought as a sanction. If restitution is being sought as a sanction, the process for Class X violations will be followed, but the sanctions will be limited to the sanctions available for the class of rule violation charged.

B. Responsibilities of Disciplinary Coordinator

In addition to the responsibilities provided for in Section IV. of this procedure, the responsibilities of the disciplinary coordinator for Class A and Class B violations are as follows:

1. Provide a copy of the offense report to the inmate.
2. Resolve or dispose of all Class A and Class B violations within seven (7) days of the date the offense report is received. Accept guilty pleas of Class X violations and impose sanctions. All guilty pleas will be signed or initialed by the inmate.
3. Meet with the inmate and determine whether the inmate has been properly charged; if not, the disciplinary coordinator will amend the charge.
4. Conduct an investigation and complete the "Disciplinary Coordinator's Report" ([DOC 060125B](#), attached), if necessary.
5. Interview the inmate and obtain relevant witness statements.
6. Decide whether to resolve the violation formally, defer or dismiss a Class A or Class B charge or handle it informally.
7. Determine whether any sanctions are appropriate, in accordance with "Acts Constituting Rule Violation" ([Attachment A](#), attached).
8. Advise the inmate of their appeal rights.
9. Document the resolution in the "Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C-1](#), attached).

C. Resolution of Class A or Class B Violations

1. The disciplinary coordinator will impose sanctions for Class A and Class B violations in accordance with “Acts Constituting Rule Violation” ([Attachment A](#), attached). Assessment of sanctions may be tailored to individually address the behavior of each inmate. There are no mandatory sanctions. In addition, the disciplinary coordinator may:
 - a. Suspend one or more of the sanctions imposed. The allowable sanction may be suspended for a specified period not to exceed ninety (90) days. There will be no partial suspension of a single sanction. If the inmate is found guilty of another offense during the period of the suspended sanction, the suspension will be revoked by the disciplinary coordinator to run consecutive to the new sanction. A revoked suspended sanction will not be viewed as one of the sanctions imposed for the new offense;
 - b. Order the confiscation and return of property that belongs to another inmate, staff member, or other person, which is found in an inmate’s possession without proper authorization; and
 - c. Order the confiscation and forfeiture of contraband money and property, in accordance with [OP-040109](#) entitled “Control of Contraband and Physical Evidence.”
2. If the disciplinary coordinator finds the inmate guilty of the rule violation, the inmate will be informed of the evidence relied upon for such finding, the basis for the sanction(s) imposed, and the opportunity to appeal. Such findings will be documented in the appropriate sections of the “Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)” ([DOC 060125C-1](#), attached).
3. A finding of guilt on the “Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses and Class X Guilty Pleas)” will be documented by a written statement by the disciplinary coordinator and a copy provided to the inmate. The reasons will point out the essential facts upon which inferences were based, mentioning what evidence the disciplinary coordinator relied on. (5-ACI-3C-20, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#7, b#8) The statement regarding the evidence relied upon for the finding of guilt will specify the offending behavior of the inmate. The finding of guilt utilizing a chemical abuse test will indicate for which drug the inmate tested positive, as well as identify any contraband found and/or field-tested.
4. The original, complete “Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report” ([DOC 060125A](#), attached), less confidential

material, will be forwarded to the facility's records office for proper notation on the "Consolidated Record Card" ([DOC 060211H](#)), and inclusion in the inmate's commitment folder, computerized record and trust fund account, as required, following the facility head's review. (5-ACI-3C-20, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#8)

D. Review of Disciplinary Actions

The facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee will review all disciplinary actions within seven (7) days after imposition of sanctions and may affirm, dismiss, modify the sanctions, or remand (5-ACI-3C-22). A modification/amendment of a charge requires completion of the "Amendment of Rule Violation" ([DOC 060125G](#)). Modification of a sanction may not increase the sanction(s) imposed and a modification/amendment of a charge may not increase the charge to a higher class violation.

1. The inmate will receive a completed copy of the "Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C-1](#)). (5-ACI-3C-20, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#8)
2. During the review of the "Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)", ([DOC 060125C-1](#), attached) the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee may remand a finding of not guilty or may order the reinstatement of an offense report that has been dismissed only if approved in writing by the chief administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections and Contract Services. A statement will be included in the order remanding or reinstating an offense report why the action is being ordered.
3. An offense report is not final until the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee signs off on the "Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C-1](#), attached).
4. Administrative action, such as transfer or assignment to another program or job, assignment to a different facility or security level, or a change in class level by the classification committee will not be construed as a sanction as they are the normal incidents of incarceration.
5. Upon completion of disciplinary action resulting in a finding of guilt, which has been reviewed by the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee, notice will be forwarded to the unit team for immediate classification action as required.

E. Dismissal of a Charge or Finding of Not Guilty

1. Should the disciplinary coordinator dismiss the charge or find the inmate not guilty, and no order remanding was issued, the disciplinary report will not be placed in the inmate's field file and will not be used to discipline the inmate. (5-ACI-3C-21)
2. The "Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C-1](#), attached) will be maintained in the facility file for two (2) years from the date of the incident and then destroyed.
3. The acts committed by the inmate will not be used in the classification process without a finding of guilt.

VII. Class X Violations and Class A and B Violations in Which Restitution is Being Sought

A. Inmate Disciplinary Hearing

Disciplinary hearings of rule violations will be conducted by an impartial disciplinary hearing officer who has had no direct involvement. (5-ACI-3C-15) Attorney representation is not allowed at the hearing. A written record will be made of the decision and the supporting reasons on the "Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X or Violation Involving Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C](#), attached).

1. The disciplinary hearing will commence within seven (7) days from the time the disciplinary hearing officer receives the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) from the disciplinary coordinator. (5-ACI-3C-05, 5-ACI-3C-13, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#5)
2. Postponement or continuance of the hearing may be granted in writing for a reasonable period of time for reasonable cause utilizing the "Disciplinary Process Extension" ([DOC 060125O](#), attached) (5-ACI-3C-14) with a copy provided to the inmate. Documentation of the postponement of the hearing is only necessary if exceeding the (7) day timeframe.
3. If the inmate has been transferred, the receiving facility may agree to hold the disciplinary hearing. All documentation will be provided by the sending facility.
4. The entire disciplinary hearing will be digitally recorded with a digital recorder unless the inmate pleads guilty or waives the hearing. If the inmate pleads guilty during the hearing, the audio recorder may be stopped after the inmate states their plea. A change of plea during the hearing will be documented on the "Change of Plea Form (Class

X)” ([DOC 060125N](#), attached). Each hearing will be recorded separately. The digital recording will be the audio record of the hearing. These recordings will be maintained at least ninety (90) days from the date of decision of the ARA.

5. Only evidence presented during the hearing may be considered when determining guilt or innocence. (5-ACI-3C-19, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#7) The disciplinary hearing officer is responsible for weighing the evidence presented, weighing the credibility of all witnesses, and, if the disciplinary hearing officer finds that the inmate is guilty, determining the appropriate sanction(s) to impose in accordance with “Acts Constituting Rule Violation” ([Attachment A](#), attached). (4-ACRS-6C-04) An inmate’s prior disciplinary record may be considered as evidence of habit or pattern of behavior in similar incidents, and can be used when considering the credibility of the inmate.
6. Any evidence the inmate has not seen, but has been made aware of, prior to the hearing may be presented during the hearing and the inmate will be offered the opportunity to view it. Such action will be documented in writing by the hearing officer or verbally acknowledged during the hearing.
7. Original disciplinary reports regarding dismissed disciplinary actions will be maintained in the files maintained by the facility head for a period of two (2) years from the date of the incident, then destroyed.

B. Disciplinary Hearing Guidelines Conducted Via Telephone

1. In appropriate circumstances, the hearing may be conducted by speakerphone hookup whereby all parties are able to hear and communicate at all times.
2. The inmate will be identified to the disciplinary hearing officer by a staff member at the holding facility.
3. The telephone hearing will be noted on the “Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X or Violation Involving Restitution)” ([DOC 060125C](#), attached).
4. Actions requiring inmate signature will be acknowledged by the disciplinary hearing officer by audio record.
5. Copies of the findings will be forwarded to the inmate upon completion of the disciplinary hearing report.
6. Time limits for an inmate to appeal begin upon the inmate’s receipt of a completed copy of the disciplinary hearing report.

C. Presence of Inmate During a Hearing

1. The inmate will normally be present throughout the hearing, with the exception of the period of deliberation and when confidential information is reviewed. (5-ACI-3C-16)
2. Should the behavior of the inmate warrant removal from the hearing or denial of attendance, such removal or denial will be documented and attached to the disciplinary hearing report. The hearing will proceed without the inmate present. (5-ACI-3C-16)
3. If the inmate refuses to attend the hearing, it will be documented and the disciplinary hearing officer will impose sanctions without a hearing, as the refusal to attend constitutes a waiver by the inmate to an opportunity for a hearing or an appeal. (5-ACI-3C-16)

D. Finding

1. Upon a finding of guilt, the inmate will be informed of the evidence relied upon for such finding, the basis for the sanction(s) imposed, and the opportunity to appeal. Such findings will be documented in the appropriate sections of the disciplinary hearing report form.
2. A finding of guilt on the disciplinary hearing report form will be documented by a written statement by the disciplinary hearing officer and a copy provided to the offender. The reasons will point out the essential facts upon which inferences were based, mentioning what evidence upon which the disciplinary hearing officer relied. (5-ACI-3C-20, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b #7, b #8) The statement regarding the evidence relied upon for the finding of guilt will specify the offending behavior of the inmate. The finding of guilt utilizing a chemical abuse test will indicate for which drug the inmate tested positive, as well as identify any contraband found and/or field-tested.
3. The sanction(s) will be imposed as outlined in the allowable range of sanctions as listed in "Acts Constituting Rule Violation" ([Attachment A](#), attached). Assessment of Class A or Class B sanctions may be tailored to individually address the behavior of each inmate. (4-ACRS-6C-04)
4. The allowable Class A or Class B sanctions may be suspended for a specified period not to exceed ninety (90) days. There will be no partial suspension of a single sanction. If the inmate is found guilty of another offense during the period of the suspended sanction, the suspension will be revoked by the disciplinary hearing officer to run consecutive to the new sanction(s). A revoked suspended sanction will not be viewed as one of the sanctions imposed for the new offense.

5. Following the facility head's review, the original, complete "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached), less confidential material, and "Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X or Violation Involving Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C](#), attached) will be forwarded to the facility's records office for proper notation on the "Consolidated Record Card" ([DOC 060211H](#)), and inclusion in the inmate's commitment folder, computerized record and trust fund account, as required. (5-ACI-3C-20, 4-ACRS-6C-03)

E. Review of Disciplinary Actions

The facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee will review all disciplinary actions within seven (7) days, after completion of the hearing or imposition of sanctions and may affirm, dismiss, modify the sanctions (Class A or Class B), or order a rehearing (5-ACI-3C-22). A modification/amendment of a charge requires completion of the "Amendment of Rule Violation" ([DOC 060125G](#), attached). Modifications of a sanction may not increase the sanction(s) imposed and a modification/amendment of a charge may not increase the charge to a higher class violation.

1. The inmate will receive a completed copy of the disciplinary hearing report form. (5-ACI-3C-20, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#8)
2. During the review of the disciplinary hearing report form, the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee may order a rehearing of a finding of not guilty or may order the reinstatement of an offense report that has been dismissed only if approved in writing by the chief administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections and Contract Services. A statement will be included in the order for a rehearing or reinstatement of an offense report of what is to be reheard and why the rehearing/reinstatement is being ordered.
3. An "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) is not final until the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee reviews the "Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X or Violation Involving Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C](#), attached).
4. Administrative action, such as transfer or assignment to another program or job, assignment to a different facility or security level, or a change in class level by the classification committee will not be construed as sanctions as they are the normal incidents of incarceration.
5. Upon completion of disciplinary action resulting in a finding of guilt, which has been reviewed by the facility head/administrators of

Institutions/Community Corrections or designee, notice will be forwarded to the unit team for immediate classification action as required.

F. Finding of Not Guilty

1. Should there be a finding of not guilty, and no rehearing was ordered, the disciplinary report will not be placed in the inmate's field file and will not be used to discipline the inmate. (5-ACI-3C-21)
2. The disciplinary report will be maintained in the facility file for two (2) years from the date of the incident and then destroyed.
3. The acts committed by the inmate will not be used in the classification process without a finding of guilt.

VIII. Appeal Process

A. Appeal to the Facility Head/Administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections (5-ACI-3C-23, 4-ACRS-6C-03 b#9)

1. The inmate will have fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the decision of a finding of guilt to submit an appeal to the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections of the facility conducting the hearing/disposition. The appeal will not be submitted by any other person. The facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections will complete the appropriate review within thirty (30) days of its receipt and the inmate will receive a completed copy. (5-ACI-3C-23) In conducting a due process review, the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections will respond to each due process issue raised by the inmate. The facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections will not have any direct involvement in the disciplinary proceeding.
2. The appeal form will be written in blue or black ink only. No pencil, other color ink, or highlighting will be accepted. The appeal may contain no extraneous markings, doodling, or borders.
3. Any inmate submitting an appeal will specifically state the grounds for the appeal. Issues not raised are waived. Inmates will use the appropriate "Inmate Misconduct Appeal Form for Class X Misconducts" ([DOC 060125L](#), attached) or "Inmate's Misconduct Appeal Form for Class A and B Misconducts" ([DOC 060125L-1](#), attached). All instructions contained in the procedure and on the form will be followed by the inmate.
4. Rehearings/redispositions will be conducted within fifteen (15) days from the date of the order, unless postponed. The same disciplinary

hearing officer/coordinator can conduct the rehearing/redisposition, unless it was determined that the disciplinary hearing officer/coordinator was directly involved in the incident. The severity of the sanction(s) and the number of sanctions will not be increased from the original hearing/disposition. A copy of the first "Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X or Violation Involving Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C](#), attached) or "Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C-1](#), attached) will be attached to and accompany the rehearing/redisposition paperwork. Once conducted, documentation of the rehearing/redisposition or order of dismissal will be maintained at the facility. The facility conducting the rehearing/redisposition will be responsible for answering the inmate's appeal, if necessary.

5. For inmates found guilty of an offense, the original "Disciplinary Coordinator's Report" ([DOC 060125B](#), attached), "Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X or Violation Involving Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C](#), attached), "Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C-1](#), attached), "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached), all evidentiary material, a copy of the appeal and completed due process review form or appeal review form and the digital recording of the disciplinary hearing will be maintained at the facility.
 - a. All offense report copies will be maintained in storage for two (2) years by the facility and the originals will be made a permanent part of the ODOC inmate commitment document folder. (5-ACI-3C-15, 5-ACI-3C-20)
6. There is no mailbox rule regarding disciplinary appeals. The inmate's appeal will be received in the facility head's office or the office of the administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections within the required timeframe. If the inmate is at another facility, the appeal will be mailed by the inmate to the appropriate facility. Each appeal will be mailed in a separate envelope.
7. If there has been no response from the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections within thirty (30) days of submission, but no later than sixty (60) days, the inmate may initiate the grievance process as specified in [OP-090124](#) entitled "Inmate/Offender Grievance Process." The inmate may grieve only that his appeal has not been answered within the specified timeframe and may not include the issues raised in the misconduct appeal.
8. If the inmate does not follow the instructions on the form or file an appeal in accordance with this procedure, the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections will inform the inmate the appeal will not be answered due to improper filing. The

inmate will be given only one opportunity by the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections to correct any procedural errors made by the inmate when submitting the appeal. A corrected appeal will be received by the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections within ten (10) calendar days of receipt by the inmate of notice of the error(s). If the inmate fails to correct the error(s) when advised of such or to properly resubmit, the appeal will be deemed to have been waived by the inmate. This process does not apply to an appeal found to be out of time.

9. For Class A and Class B violations, the response from the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections is final and, unless remanded, no further appeal will be permitted.
10. If the inmate appeals the finding of guilt of the facility head/administrator of Institutions'/Community Corrections' decision of Class X violations and Class A and B violations in which restitution is imposed, the ARA will notify the facility by email that all of the following paperwork will be provided to the ARA within three (3) working days: the "Disciplinary Coordinator's Report" ([DOC 060125B](#), attached), the "Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X and Violation Involving Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C](#), attached), the "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached), all evidentiary material, a copy of the appeal and completed due process form, and the recording of the disciplinary hearing.

B. Appeal to the Administrative Review Authority (Class X Violations and Class A and B Violations if Restitution Was Imposed)

1. Only inmates found guilty of a Class X misconduct and Class A and B violations if restitution was imposed may appeal the final decision of the facility head/ administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections to the ARA. The appeal will be received at ARA within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the due process review, there is no mailbox rule. Mailing address:

Administrative Review Authority
Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 11400
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73136-0400

2. The inmate may appeal the response to the misconduct by the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections based upon probable error and/or newly discovered evidence. The inmate will clearly state the error committed, including the specific element of due process that was not provided by the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections.

3. When submitting an appeal to the ARA, the inmate will submit only the "Misconduct/Grievance Appeal to Administrative Review Authority" ([DOC 060125V](#), attached) to the ARA. The appeal will not be submitted by any other person. Multiple pages may not be reduced in size and placed on one page or be affixed together to count as one page. The inmate may utilize only the back of the appeal form to provide extra comments. Each appeal will be submitted in a separate envelope.
4. The ARA will review the appeal within thirty (30) days of receipt by affirming, dismissing, modifying the decision or remanding with instructions. The decision of the ARA is final. If a rehearing/redisposition is ordered by the ARA, the rehearing/redisposition will be conducted within fifteen (15) days from the date of the order unless postponed. A copy of the first "Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X and Violation Involving Restitution)" ([DOC 060125C](#), attached) will be attached to and accompany the rehearing/redisposition paperwork. Once conducted, documentation of the rehearing/redisposition or order of dismissal will be maintained at the facility. The facility conducting the rehearing/redisposition will be responsible for answering the inmate's appeal, if necessary.
5. The ARA's response will be sent to the facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections and the inmate will be provided with a copy of the response. The inmate is responsible for maintaining copies of all appeal related paperwork for their own record.
6. Inmates will be charged a \$2.00 processing fee for each misconduct appeal submitted to the ARA in accordance with 57 O.S. § 566.4.I. Inmates will not be refused access to the ARA because of their financial status. If there are not enough funds to cover the cost, the amount will be collected as soon as funds become available. After processing the appeal, the ARA will submit a copy of the appeal form to the inmate trust fund officer for the \$2.00 fee to be entered into the system as "Legal Co-Pay." In the event relief is granted, no fee will be assessed.
7. If the inmate does not follow the instructions on the form or file an appeal in accordance with this procedure, the ARA will inform the inmate the appeal will not be answered due to improper filing. The inmate will be given only one opportunity by the ARA to correct any procedural errors made by the inmate when submitting the appeal. A corrected appeal will be received by the ARA in ten (10) calendar days of receipt by the inmate of notice of the error(s). If the inmate fails to correct the error(s) when advised of such or to properly resubmit, the appeal will be deemed to have been waived by the

inmate. This process does not apply to an appeal found to be out of time.

C. Judicial Appeal

Following disposition by the ARA of a misconduct appeal with a finding of guilt resulting in the revocation of earned credits, the inmate may file a petition designated by the administrator of courts to the Oklahoma County District Court for judicial review. The petition will be filed within ninety (90) days (57 O.S. §564.1).

IX. Submitting a Disciplinary Appeal Out of Time (Only Class X Violations and Class A and B Violations in Which Restitution is Sought)

A. Denial of Appeal

1. Once a disciplinary appeal has been denied by the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections and/or the ARA due to the appeal not being submitted in a timely manner, the inmate may make one request to submit a disciplinary appeal out of time by completion of the "Request to Submit a Misconduct/Grievance Appeal Out of Time" ([DOC 060125T](#), attached).
2. The request will be mailed to the ARA and will be received within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date of denial of the untimely disciplinary appeal by the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or the ARA.
3. The inmate will prove by substantial evidence that they did not submit the disciplinary appeal in the required time frame through absolutely no fault of their own.
4. If the request to submit an untimely disciplinary appeal is granted, the inmate will be directed to resubmit the disciplinary appeal with the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or the ARA within fifteen (15) calendar days of the ARA's decision. If denied relief by the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections, the inmate may appeal the decision to the ARA within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date the facility head or administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections denied relief.
5. Inmates will be charged a \$2.00 processing fee for each request to submit an appeal out of time to the ARA. Inmates will not be refused access to the ARA because of their financial status. If there are not enough funds to cover the cost, the amount will be collected as soon as funds become available.

- a. If the request to appeal out of time is denied or premature, the ARA will submit a copy of the appeal form to the inmate trust fund officer for the \$2.00 fee to be entered into the system as "Legal Co-Pay."
- b. If the request to appeal out of time is granted, no fee will be assessed.

X. Notification of Pardon and Parole Board Authorities

A. Parole Consideration

Should the affected inmate be scheduled for parole consideration within sixty (60) days following the occurrence of any offense, the facility head will ensure a photocopy of the offense report and disciplinary hearing report" is forwarded to the Pardon and Parole Board with the docket date indicated at the top. The Pardon and Parole Board will be verbally notified if a Class X misconduct conviction occurs within seven (7) days prior to a parole board appearance.

B. Appeal Process

If the offense report is later dismissed during the appeal process, the Pardon and Parole Board will be notified if the offense report has been reported to that agency.

XI. Dismissal of the Offense Report (5-ACI-3C-21)

A. Expungements of Records

Upon receipt of the written notification regarding dismissal of an offense report, the facility head/ administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections will ensure the following occurs:

1. All copies of the report are removed from the inmate field file and commitment document folder. The original of the dismissed "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) and all attachments, evidence, etc., will be maintained in a file at the facility for two (2) years with access limited to the facility head, disciplinary coordinators, inspector general, general counsel or special report writers to be used in responding to inmate lawsuits or preparing for criminal prosecution.
2. All notations of the offense report are to be deleted from the disciplinary records portion of the "Consolidated Record Card" ([DOC 060211H](#)), local records or picture cards, and from any computer record. This excludes the "Facility Misconduct Report Record" ([DOC 060125D](#), attached), which will be maintained for statistical purposes.

B. Restoration of Revoked Earned Credits

If any earned credits were revoked as a result of a finding of guilt in the disciplinary hearing, those earned credits will be restored to the inmate's record.

C. Restoration of Earned Credit Level

If the inmate's earned credit level was demoted as a result of a finding of guilt in the disciplinary hearing, the inmate's earned credit level will be restored to the level prior to the date of the offense report.

XII. Deferred Disposition Process (4-ACRS-6C-01, 4-ACRS-6C-04)

Those inmates, who have no prior disciplinary convictions in the previous twelve (12) months, may be eligible to have pending disciplinary actions for Class A and B offenses administered through the deferred disposition process in place of the standard disposition process outlined in this procedure.

- A. No inmate having a pending deferred offense who is charged with an additional rule violation will be eligible for an additional deferred disposition under this process.
- B. The deferred disposition process is located in "Deferred Disposition Process for Rule Violation" ([Attachment D](#), attached).
- C. To initiate the deferred disposition process, the inmate will be served with a copy of the "Notice of Deferred Disposition Process for Misconduct Rule Violation" ([DOC 060125S](#), attached).

XIII. Authority to Intervene

A. Intervention of Disciplinary Action

The agency director or the agency director's designee retains authority to intervene in any disciplinary action at any stage.

B. Expungement

A class X offense report may not be dismissed or expunged by anyone other than the agency director or director's designee after a final disposition by the ARA or after the timeframe for an appeal to the ARA has expired, unless approved by the chief of Operations or chief administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections and Contract Services.

XIV. Reporting Requirements

A. Misconduct Reporting

1. Each facility/probation and parole region will designate a staff member to enter all "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Reports" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) with a finding of guilt into the Offender Management System (OMS).
2. The facility head/administrator of Institutions/Community Corrections or designee will maintain the "Facility Misconduct Report Record" ([DOC 060125D](#), attached) for statistical purposes. All "Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Reports" ([DOC 060125A](#), attached) will be entered onto the "Facility Misconduct Report Record" ([DOC 060125D](#), attached)

XV. Variations of Normal Procedures for Inmates Housed at Contract Facilities

- A. All contract facilities (including private prisons, private halfway houses, and county jails) that house ODOC inmates pursuant to a contract/interlocal agreement with ODOC will comply with this operating procedure and the contract/interlocal agreement for enforcing discipline. The contract facility will have physical control and the power to exercise disciplinary authority in accordance with the disciplinary process outlined in this procedure over ODOC inmates housed at the contract facility.
- B. Administration of a disciplinary sanction will comply with the requirement for due process.

XVI. References

Policy Statement P-030100 entitled "Provisions of Services/Inmate Rights and Responsibilities"

OP-030134 entitled "Chemical Abuse Testing"

OP-040109 entitled "Control of Contraband and Physical Evidence"

OP-040110 entitled "Search and Seizure Standards"

OP-040204 entitled "Special Management Units"

OP-060212 entitled "Maintenance and Access of Offender Records"

OP-090124 entitled "Inmate/Offender Grievance Process"

OP-100101 entitled "Training and Staff Development"

57 O.S. § 138

57 O.S. § 510.8

57 O.S. § 564.1

57 O.S. § 566.4.I.

Wolff v. McDonnell, 418 U.S. 539 (1974)

Morrisey v. Brewer, 408 U.S. 471 (1972)

Young v. Harper, 520 U.S. 143 (1997)

Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472 (1995)

Waldron v. Evans, 861 P.2d 311, 1993 OK CR 46

Canady v. Reynolds, 880 P.2d 391, 1994 OK CR 54

Dunn v. Ramsey, 936 P.2d 347, 1997 OK CR 21

Wilson v. Jones, 430 F.3d 1113 (10th Cir. 2005)

Ali v. Taylor, 528 Fed. Appx. 918 (10th Cir. 2013)

XVII. Action

Each facility/unit head is responsible for developing local procedures.

The chief administrators of Institutions and Community Corrections and Contract Services are responsible for compliance with this procedure.

The General Counsel is responsible for the annual review and revisions.

Any exceptions to this procedure will require prior written approval from the agency director.

This procedure is effective as indicated.

Replaced: OP-060125 entitled "Inmate/Offender Disciplinary Procedures" dated January 26, 2022

Distribution: Policy and Operations Manual
Agency Website

<u>Referenced Forms</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>
DOC 060125A	"Oklahoma Department of Corrections Offense Report"	Attached
DOC 060125B	"Disciplinary Coordinator's Report"	Attached
DOC 060125C	"Disciplinary Hearing Report (Class X or Violation Involving Restitution)"	Attached
DOC 060125C-1	"Disciplinary Disposition Report (Class A and B Offenses Without Restitution)"	Attached
DOC 060125D	"Facility Misconduct Report Record"	Attached
DOC 060125E	"Disciplinary Hearing Docket"	Attached
DOC 060125F	"Response from Agency Director or Designee"	Attached
DOC 060125G	"Amendment of Rule Violation"	Attached
DOC 060125H	"Record of Delivery of Copies of Evidence to Inmate"	Attached
DOC 060125I	"Witness Discretionary Action Record"	Attached
DOC 060125L	"Inmate Misconduct Appeal Form for Class X Misconducts"	Attached
DOC 060125L-1	"Inmate's Misconduct Appeal Form for Class A and B Misconducts"	Attached
DOC 060125M	"Mental Health Disciplinary Process Consultation Log"	Attached
DOC 060125N	"Change of Plea Form (Class X)"	Attached
DOC 060125O	"Disciplinary Process Extension"	Attached
DOC 060125P	"Review of Evidence"	Attached
DOC 060125R	"Mental Health Recommendations Regarding Inmate Discipline"	Attached
DOC 060125S	"Notice of Deferred Disposition Process for Misconduct Rule Violation (Class A and B)"	Attached
DOC 060125T	"Request to Submit a Misconduct/Grievance Appeal Out of Time"	Attached
DOC 060125U	"Assignment of Staff Representative"	Attached
DOC 060125V	"Misconduct/Grievance Appeal to Administrative Review Authority"	Attached
DOC 060211H	"Consolidated Record Card"	OP-060211

<u>Attachments</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>
Attachment A	"Acts Constituting Rule Violation"	Attached
Attachment B	"Disciplinary Hearing Guide"	Attached
Attachment D	"Deferred Disposition Process For Rule Violation"	Attached