

HUNGER STRIKES

STANDARD NO(S):#

DATE: June 1, 2007

REFER TO: Thomas Mulheron

I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Seneca County Correctional Facility to carefully monitor the behavior and well being, as well as the health and safety of any inmate(s) engaging in a hunger strike.

II. DETAILS:

A. Definitions

1. Hunger Strikes – Any inmate or concerted decision by inmates to refuse food for an extended period of time, whether they declare such intent or demonstrate it through their behavior.

B. Guidelines

1. The health of the inmate on a hunger strike will be the primary concern and it will be carefully and thoroughly monitored at all times.
2. A log will be maintained in the event of a hunger strike. All significant information and observations will be documented including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. The inmate(s) name
 2. Food and fluids intake or refusal
 3. Commissary items purchased
 4. Items received from others
 5. Behavior of inmate
3. Housing Unit Officers will communicate with the inmate regularly to attempt to determine and resolve the reason(s) for the hunger strike.
4. The facility nurse will attempt to conduct a regular physical assessment, including vital signs monitoring, based upon the inmate(s) condition. Such assessment will be documented, and signed, as well as witnessed by an Escort Officer, and will include:

1. Inmate response
 2. Appearance
 3. Behavior
 4. Overall condition
 5. Other relevant information
5. The facility nurse will apprise the Lieutenant as to the inmate's physical condition and degree of health risk to assist with daily program decisions.
 6. The Lieutenant will supervise and monitor the overall situation and submit a daily written report to the Chief Administrative Officer regarding security and operations.
 7. The Chief Administrative Officer will monitor health and security aspects of the hunger strike to assess the need for further action, including extraordinary medical treatment, housing assignment, and similar issues.