

POLICY

2 SUBJECT AREA
3 960-999 Civil Rights
4 and Opportunities

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/11/80

UNITS AFFECTED: All Correctional
Facilities

5 INTRODUCTION

6 In recent years the emergence and definition of inmate legal and civil
7 rights has accelerated, particularly those rights associated with the Federal
8 Civil Rights Act of 1963. One of the civil rights areas where there has been
9 rapid and fundamental change is the area of voting rights for inmates. The
10 inmate's right to vote will be kept intact.

11 GROUP SERVED

12 Correctional Facility staff and residents.

13 OBJECTIVE

14 To protect the voting rights of inmates in correctional institutions,
15 and to mandate development of facility procedures for inmate voting.

16 POLICY DESCRIPTION

17 Vermont law is quite clear when it indicates that a person who is
18 convicted of a crime shall retain the right to vote by absentee ballot in
19 a primary or election during the term of his commitment to a term of con-
20 finement providing that that person otherwise fills all voting requirements.

21 It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of each correctional
22 facility to ensure that his staff takes the initiative to inform and
23 assist inmates in exercising their right to vote (for example, obtaining
24 absentee ballots.) He shall also develop any necessary procedures for
25 carrying out this right, and ensure that inmates are aware both of their

26 and related procedures.

27 Vermont statutes forbid inmates to use their place of involuntary
28 confinement as their place of residence for voting, and instead require that
29 such vote be made at their last place of voluntary residence.

Legal Reference

28 VSA, Sec. 807

A handwritten signature in cursive, appearing to read "Monte A. ...", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Commissioner of Corrections" and "(Acting)" is printed.

Commissioner of Corrections
(Acting)