

# NEWSLETTER

COLUMBIA RIVER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
& SOUTH FORK FORREST CAMP CURRENTS

# AUGUST

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EDITORS: FANTA MITH

# FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES PROGRAM:

Below is the list of status changes made to DOC administrative rules since 2/4/2024.

## **PROPOSED RULES:**

### **291-070 Records Management (Adult in Custody and Adult on Supervision)**

- Amends rule to update the term "offender" to "adult in custody"; clarify these rules; to update for consistency within these rules and other department rules; and align definitions with those adopted by the department as standard.
- Comments must be received by the Rules Office before: 9/19/25 12:00pm (noon)

### **291-131 Mail (AIC)**

- Amends rule to permanently adopt the temporary changes effective 7/3/25; and to clarify rules relating to legal mail and official mail.
- Virtual Public Hearing: 8/26/25 at 1:00pm
- Comments must be received by the Rules Office before: 9/19/25 12:00pm (noon)

### **291-141 General Library Services (AIC)**

- Amends rule to ensure a clear distinction is made between general library services and legal library services; align with current practices; replace the term "inmate" with "adult in custody"; clarify the rules or further define process; add or update definitions; improve consistency within these rules and with other department rules; and reorganize the rules for ease of understanding and to combine like topics.
- Comments must be received by the Rules Office before: 9/19/25 12:00pm (noon)

## **TEMPORARY RULES:**

### **291-037 Release of Public Records – Request for Department Public Records**

- Amends rule to update process for non-AICs requesting public records from the department to include a new online public records portal linked on the existing DOC website, and the process for submitting written requests in person; update process for AICs to submit requests for public records from the department; provide requirements and guidance on information to include in a request for public records; and clarify what the process is when a request for public records is submitted to the wrong unit.
- Effective: 7/16/25 through 1/2/26

### **291-131 Mail (AIC)**

- Amends rule to (1) remove the "20-pound" weight restriction on envelopes and move to a "standard weight" restriction; (2) clarify the definitions and dispositions of mail that is refused and mail that is rejected; (3) clarify that business cards are unauthorized enclosures and that certain kinds of writing materials are not allowed; and (4) clarify that legal mail and official mail may include a single, postage-paid return envelope that meets the Division 131 rules' criteria, to facilitate return mail in legal and official matters and to bring the department's rules in line with its practices.
- Effective: 7/3/25 through 12/29/25

## **PERMANENT RULES:**

### **291-157 Release Funds**

- Amends rule to remove the set amount for release funds and discontinue the accompanying obsolete process. Other revisions clarified rules; made minor grammatical changes or changes to titles; updated statutory citations; changed the term "inmate" to "adult in custody"; removed gendered language; updated, added, or clarified definitions; and updated and further defined process.
- Effective: 7/3/25

# REMINDERS & UPDATES

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION



### UPDATED USPS INFO

The USPS (United States Postal Service) has announced a postage rate increase. The new mailing services pricing will go into effect on Monday 7/14/2025. We apologize for the short notice. We are updating the commissary orders forms as quickly as possible. The new pricing can be seen below:

1035 #10 Standard Envelope **\$1.05**  
1037 International **\$2.15**  
1069 Domestic 6.5x9.5 **\$2.55**  
1072 Domestic 10x13 **\$3.05**  
1077 9x12 International **\$4.70**  
1078 9x12 International **\$5.95**  
1079 9x12 International **\$6.55**  
1076 9x12 Domestic **\$5.20**  
1074 12.5x18.5 **\$7.05**  
1075 Priority Mail **\$11.80**  
1080 Small shipping box **\$12.35**  
1081 Med shipping box **\$22.20**  
1082 Large shipping box **\$31.55**

Thank you,  
Commissary

### UPDATE FROM RELEASE SERVICES

We have been notified by County Community Corrections partners that they are experiencing budget deficits, which is impacting housing availability and Short-Term Transitional Leave acceptance. We encourage you to pursue private housing for release and to otherwise be prepared for the possibility of not being able to release on your Short-Term Transitional Leave date. Your release counselor will discuss this with you further about 3-4 months to release.

### UPDATED VISITING INFORMATION

Effective Immediately, AICs can submit Visiting Applications electronically via the tablets!

With this simplified option available, Visiting Services will no longer accept applications submitted by counselors and or support staff, on behalf of an AIC.

This change is to ensure consistent, adequate and equitable services for all.

If possible, please share with others at your facility that may be impacted by this update. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Thank you for your continued partnership!

### UPDATE FROM PROGRAM SERVICES

Out of an abundance of caution and in order to protect the health and safety of AICs, staff, and all of our families, all events, classes, and programs will remain postponed until quarantines are lifted and normal operations resume. At that time, we will review everything that needs to be rescheduled and communicate new dates to the population accordingly.



# STAY SAFE IN THE HEAT! YARD SAFETY REMINDER

With rising summer temperatures, all staff and inmates need to stay alert for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, especially during yard time or work assignments.

## Know the Warning Signs:

### Heat Exhaustion:

- Heavy sweating
- Dizziness or weakness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps



### Heat Stroke (Medical Emergency!)

- Body temp over 103°F
- Confusion or slurred speech
- Hot, dry skin
- Unconsciousness

### Protect Yourself and Others:

- Drink water often – stay hydrated!
- Take breaks in the shade when possible
- Wear light, breathable clothing
- Report any signs of heat illness immediately



**Remember: Heat stroke can be fatal if not treated.  
Don't ignore the signs – speak up and stay safe!**



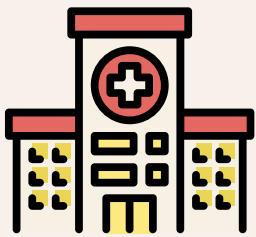
# Q&A EHR TOWNHALL



## WHAT YOU ASKED. WHAT WE ANSWERED.



Health Services is getting ready to launch a new Electronic Health Records (EHR) system. At a recent Townhall at CoffeeCreek, adults in custody (AICs) asked great questions—here's what the EHR Project Team had to say:



### WILL THE EHR WORK WITH HOSPITALS OUTSIDE DOC?



Yes! The system connects to Health Information Exchanges (HIEs). This lets DOC staff see your hospital and ER records faster—no waiting for fax or mail.



### ARE PATIENT PAPER CHARTS BEING SCANNED?



Yes! Overflow charts are already scanned and stored safely. Your current charts will also be scanned when the EHR goes live.



### WILL AICS STILL USE PAPER KYTES?



Yes! Keep using paper kytes the same way. When the EHR goes live, they'll be scanned and added to your digital health record.



### HOW WILL I KNOW ABOUT APPOINTMENTS?

No changes! Just keep checking call outs like always.



**Questions  
about the EHR?**

**Send a kyte  
to: AskEHR**



**MORE UPDATES ARE  
COMING SOON.  
THANKS FOR YOUR  
QUESTIONS!**

To: All Adults in Custody  
From: DOC Director Michael Reese  
Date: July 29, 2025

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) has been making major improvements to healthcare for adults in custody (AICs) by bringing in experts, increasing staff, and updating operations.

The Health Services Division has already made several changes to the Therapeutic Levels of Care (TLC) process that remove delays in access to care. Offsite medical scheduling has been reorganized to help address the backlog of needed outside medical trips. DOC is also in the process of switching from using paper medical records for AICs to electronic health records (EHR). The update is a two-phase process and will be fully complete by the end of 2025.

Earlier this year, DOC hired the Falcon Group, a national consulting firm specializing in correctional healthcare, and they have conducted a thorough review of DOC's healthcare system. Falcon has provided DOC with a report of their findings, key observations, and a series of recommendations as part of their report. DOC will take the next 120 days to review the report and determine next steps.

We are committed to providing the care you need while incarcerated. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The report will be available on AIC tablets and kiosks.

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Para: Todos los adultos bajo custodia  
De: Director del DOC, Michael Reese  
Fecha: 29 de julio de 2025

El Departamento Correccional de Oregón (DOC) ha estado realizando mejoras importantes en la atención médica para adultos bajo custodia (AIC) incorporando expertos, aumentando el personal y actualizando las operaciones.

La División de Servicios de Salud ya ha implementado varios cambios en el proceso de Niveles Terapéuticos de Atención (TLC) que eliminan las demoras en el acceso a la atención. Se ha reorganizado la programación de citas médicas externas para abordar la acumulación de viajes médicos externos necesarios. El DOC también está en proceso de cambiar el uso de historiales médicos en papel para los AIC a historiales médicos electrónicos (HCE). La actualización es un proceso de dos fases y estará completamente finalizada para finales de 2025.

A principios de este año, el Departamento de Correccionales (DOC) contrató a Falcon Group, una consultora nacional especializada en atención médica penitenciaria, quien realizó una revisión exhaustiva de su sistema de salud. Falcon proporcionó al DOC un informe con sus hallazgos, observaciones clave y una serie de recomendaciones como parte de dicho informe. El DOC se tomará los próximos 120 días para revisar el informe y determinar los próximos pasos.

Nos comprometemos a brindarle la atención que necesita mientras esté en prisión. Gracias por su paciencia y comprensión.

El informe estará disponible en las tabletas y quioscos de AIC.- Page 2 -

# ROAD TO SUCCESS

## ROAD TO SUCCESS AUGUST UPDATE!

Happy summer from RTOS! Have you heard about the services Road to Success (RTOS) offers and are wondering how you can sign up for the classes? Here's how it works: Once you're about six months to release, you will be automatically scheduled for an assessment. That's where you'll receive info about RTOS classes and have the opportunity to sign up. All classes are voluntary and held in Classroom 5 (on unit 5). So watch your callouts and when your time comes, sign up for any (or all!) of the classes. Once you finish all five classes you become an RTOS Superstar and mentor to other participants! \*Must wear pants, mask, bring pen/pencil, and be on time.

### ROAD TO SUCCESS OFFERS THE FOLLOWING CORE CLASSES:

- Employment – Job skills, resume building, interview practice.  
(get a thumb drive containing various resources to take with you!)
- Tenant Education – Overcome barriers to housing and learn your rights as a tenant.
- Money Management – Budgeting, credit building/repair and financial goals \$\$\$
- Working Effectively with Your PO–Develop a positive relationship with your PO
- Your Family, Your Community, Your Release – Reunite with family and friends and better understand the impact your incarceration has had on them.



### AUGUST RTOS CLASS SPOTLIGHT IS: MONEY MANAGEMENT

Students who have taken this class report significant improvements in their financial literacy. Developing a budget (a saving and spending plan) can help you meet your basic needs and financial obligations; having a plan to manage your money can reduce stress and increase your success upon release. Saving money (even if it's a small amount!) to achieve short-term and long-term goals can build self-confidence and increase your enjoyment of life. This two-session class explores these topics as well as others. Road To Success Superstars are also eligible for a free year's subscription to the budgeting app/software "You Need a Budget" (YNAB). It's pretty sweet! Send a kyte for more info.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS CLASS:

- Learn how to obtain and analyze a credit report
- Create a budget that meets your specific needs and goals
- Create clear financial goals (short-term and long-term) and determine wants vs. needs
- Learn ways to overcome debt
- Learn about navigating the banking system - credit vs. debit

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT:

Each month RTOS likes to shine a spotlight on a community organization: **Iron Tribe Network** is a peer-run, non-profit organization established in 2009 that delivers peer services to the Multnomah/Clackamas/Washington county area. They provide support and guidance for individuals affected by crime, incarceration, addiction, and/or mental health needs. Additionally, they provide clean/sober housing, a weekly community peer support group, and one-on-one mentoring. For more information or a pamphlet please stop by the Resource Room.  
Contact info: 17763 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Drive Suite A Gladstone, OR 97027 | 503.344.6710

# Latest Road To Success Superstars

Jonathan Larkins-Renardo Mitchell-Kolton Black-Zelda Chiniewicz-Cristian Vieyra-Lobato-Richard Cardenas-Dale Howard-Jaron Hahn-Devon White-Robert Morris-Matthew Smith-Tomis Boman-Errol Henderson-Aldrin Barraquio-Eric Maney-Steve Rosales-Eugene McCullough-Carl Flie-Chad Huffman-Jonathan McDonald-Derrick Meeks-Joseph Perez-Abudu Traylor

Congratulations on completing EVERY class!!!

## GENERAL UNIT 5 INFO:

Unit 5 is a transitional unit and is incentive-based.

Advantages to being on Unit 5 include: special guest speakers, early morning exercise time in classroom 5, "late night" in the Dayroom Area on weekends and holidays, a generally cleaner and quiet environment, regular one-on-one support with a Transition Coordinator, access to various other incentives from time to time, and the company of others who are working to succeed upon their release.

To be eligible for Unit 5 you must be six months or less to release, signed up for all five RTOS classes, and be incentive level two or three. Once on Unit 5 you must maintain good behavior, a clean bunk area and pro-social behavior. If you receive three bunk-ins, a DR, or don't show up for scheduled classes you will have to leave the unit. AICs on this unit must have a job assignment. RTOS has job openings on the unit.

## RESOURCE ROOM INFO

All AICs may access the Resource Room (located in Classroom 1) when they are 4 months or less to release or living on Unit 5. There you can find job postings, county-specific resources, transitional housing info, make phone calls relevant to your success upon release, work on a transition plan, and more...

Open office hours vary and are subject to change so feel free to send a kyte and we will be happy to assist you. Most up-to-date hours are posted on the Resource Room door.

## SOUTH FORK FOREST CAMP RTOS INFO:

**What?** SFFC folks who are within six months of release are also eligible for Road To Success services! Classes, one-on-one consultation, release resources, etc.

**Who?** Ms. Gaidosh, the Transition Coordinator from CRCI

**When?** Monthly

## FLAGGING CLASS:

The next Flagging class is happening on **Saturday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>**. CD 28s must be turned in before Friday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Flagging certification is valid for 3 years and certifies you for work in Oregon, Washington, Montana & Idaho. You must be six months or less from release and will be required to send a CD-28 to Ms. Gaidosh, in the amount of \$100 made payable to Todd Cooper for the purpose of ODOT Flagging Class, or you can have a money order or cashier's check sent in from someone in the community with all of the same pay-to information included. Payment must be received prior to taking the class. Space is limited. This is a first-come first-serve opportunity.





# Financial Services

## *Informational Briefing*

### *Court Ordered Financial Obligations (COFOs)*

#### **What are Court Ordered Financial Obligations (COFOs)?**

COFOs are financial obligations owed by an Adult in Custody (AIC) assigned during a legal proceeding. COFOs may consist of restitution, fines, fees, child support, or civil judgements including money owed to a victim. Note: COFOs are not the same as County and U.S. Court Filing Fees.

#### **Why does the Department of Corrections (DOC) collect COFOs?**

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 423.105 became law in 2017, directing DOC to collect COFOs on behalf of the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

#### **How are COFOs collected?**

COFOs are collected from eligible deposits, or deposits that are not protected from debt and obligation collection. Examples of eligible deposits include AIC performance monetary awards (PRAS) and moneys received from an AIC's family or friends.

10% of each eligible deposit is collected until the AIC's transitional savings has reached \$500. After the AIC's transitional savings has reached \$500, 15% of each eligible deposit is collected for COFOs until those obligations are satisfied.

#### **Who do I contact if I have questions about COFOs?**

DOC is unable to provide case-specific information. AICs with questions or concerns about their COFO details should contact OJD/DOJ or the appropriate court of record.

#### **Oregon Judicial Department (OJD)**

Business and Fiscal Services Division

Attn: Collections

1163 State St

Salem OR 97301

#### **Department of Justice (DOJ)**

Division of Child Support

PO Box 14680

Salem, OR 97309

(800)-850-0228

#### **Questions?**

AICs may submit an AIC Communication form to Business Services (electronic communication option preferred & available on the tablet). Friends and Family may submit questions to [dldoctrustinfo@doc.state.or.us](mailto:dldoctrustinfo@doc.state.or.us).