



## *USE OF RESTRICTIVE HOUSING*

2013-2

**WHEREAS**, it is sometimes necessary to separate inmates from one another and to restrict the contact of inmates with one another for their own safety and the safety and security of others; and

**WHEREAS**, restrictive housing of inmates should be conducted in a just, humane and constitutional manner; and

**WHEREAS**, such assignment shall be made only when no alternative disposition would be adequate to control the inmate's behavior or sufficient to alter the findings of objective classification review factors; and

**WHEREAS**, correctional authorities must give due consideration to the special needs of inmates when placing them in restrictive housing; and

**WHEREAS**, restrictive housing shall be utilized only in circumstances where no other available form of housing will accomplish the required levels of safety and stability; and

**WHEREAS**, solitary confinement that results in total isolation is not an acceptable practice; and

**WHEREAS**, restrictive housing assignments in a correctional setting are a valuable and necessary component of safe and stable operations, they shall be governed by an acceptable body of written policy and procedure and implemented in conjunction with a demonstrated pattern of accepted practices; and

**WHEREAS**, restrictive housing generally reflects the highest level of security in a correctional environment and it is desirable to transition restrictive housing inmates to less restrictive alternatives in general population consistent with public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, correctional agencies shall provide programs that are designed to maximize the potential for successful adjustment to status reduction; and

**WHEREAS**, inmates in restrictive custody housing shall receive periodic classification reviews and such reviews may result in status reduction, confirmation of current status or recommendation of additional access to positive program incentives within the restrictive housing environment; and

**WHEREAS**, inmates in restrictive housing shall be provided appropriate and timely medical and mental health care; and

**WHEREAS**, inmates in restrictive housing shall be provided visiting opportunities, exercise opportunities and the ability to maintain proper levels of personal hygiene; and

**WHEREAS**, staff assigned to restrictive housing shall receive specialized training that reflects the challenges associated with this type of assignment; and now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the American Correctional Association supports the use of restrictive housing in accordance with the basic principles of this resolution; and now

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Correctional Association strongly urges all correctional agencies to demonstrate a balanced concern for safety, order and the preservation of individual dignity in the use of restrictive housing by adherence to ACA standards.

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This resolution was formally adopted by the American Correctional Association at the **143rd Congress of Correction** in Washington, DC, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.