

For Immediate Release

The IDOC Develops Statewide Safe Prison Program

Indianapolis, Indiana (April 29, 2009)—The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) has always taken the safety of offenders and staff members very seriously, but now, prison safety in Indiana is getting an upgrade.

Today, IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss announced the implementation of a new initiative called the Indiana Safe Prison Program, beginning June 1, 2009. Although each IDOC facility currently develops and employs its own safety curriculum, the criteria, expectations, and goals will all be streamlined into a Department-wide program that will become a portion of all new employee orientation and in-service training.

The initiative focuses heavily on streamlining reporting and monitoring of incidents, promoting assault prevention and intervention, and educating staff and offenders alike on how to best keep prisons safe. The purpose of the program's policy and procedures is to present an approach to reduce violence and sexual assaults in the Department's facilities. This program is to be utilized to emphasize the need for vigilance on the part of staff to ensure that corrective action is taken whenever potential threats to the safety and security of the facilities are present.

"Prison safety for both offenders and staff is a top priority for the Indiana Department of Correction," said Commissioner Buss. "We continually want to improve and streamline our safety procedures and policies. Through this new initiative, we will take what each facility already does and find the best approaches to make sure all new and current staff are well-prepared and knowledgeable about prison safety."

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