

Department of Corrections State Documents

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

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Summary Information

Repository: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Creator: Pennsylvania. Department of Corrections

Title: Department of Corrections State Documents

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Date: 1984 - Present

Date: Majority of material found within 2000 - Present

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Language of English

Materials:

Scope and Contents

The Department of Corrections is responsible for the management and supervision of the Commonwealth's adult correctional system, including all state correctional institutions and regional facilities, as well as community-oriented prerelease facilities, known as community service centers. The Department is headed by the Secretary, the Executive Deputy Secretary of Institutional Operations, the Executive Deputy Secretary for Community Corrections and Reentry, three regional deputy secretaries, the Deputy Secretary of Field Services, the Deputy Secretary of Reentry and the Deputy Secretary for Administration.

The publications of the Department of Corrections contain educational guides, newsletters, annual and monthly reports, performance reports, and statistical reports. Selected topics from these publications include sexual abuse among inmates, inmate statistics. The bulk of the current material is dated from 2000 to present.

Biographical / Historical

Until the latter part of the 19th century, the Pennsylvania System was the model for corrections throughout the nation. In the 1920's, Pennsylvania's major prison facilities were placed under the jurisdiction of the old Department of Welfare, along with mental health facilities and juvenile institutions. A legislative investigation into major prison riots at Pittsburgh and Rockview in 1952 led to legislation which established a separate Bureau of Correction within the state Department of Justice to oversee reforms and to operate the system. Governor John S. Fine signed the bill on August 31, 1953. In 1980, the State Attorney General became an elected rather than an appointed position, and the Bureau was transferred from the Justice Department to the newly created Office of General Counsel, within the Governor's office. Four years later, corrections was elevated to a departmental status through legislation, Act 245 of 1984, proposed and signed by Governor Dick Thornburgh.

Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Department of Justice (agency emerged from), Office of General Counsel (agency emerged from)

Conditions Governing Use

The Parole Monthly Statistics Reports are copyrighted publications, for which the Department of Corrections has permitted educational use.

Other Finding Aids

For more information concerning the records of the Department of Corrections at the Pennsylvania State Archives, please visit:

<https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=class202>.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Correctional institutions--Government policy
- Corrections--Government policy--U.S. states
- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Politics and government
- State government publications