

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: MEDIA ACCESS TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE

A-600

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
June 30, 1990	04-01-2026	10-22-2013	09-12-2025

APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE: Title 15, Section 1045

POLICY

All inquiries received from the media regarding access to incarcerated people will be referred to the section manager or the on-duty Shift Supervisor.

Incarcerated people are allowed to correspond freely with, or be interviewed by, the media as long as such access will not disrupt the security, order, or safety of the facility.

All news releases will be conducted pursuant to DPPM I-100. Incarcerated people that are victims of a crime within a facility will be identified by age and gender only due to safety and security concerns.

Procedure A: Media Access to Incarcerated People

Prior to an interview with an incarcerated person being granted; the following steps will be taken:

- The media will be asked to submit a written request for an interview with the incarcerated person. This request may be faxed or scanned and emailed to the facility. The written request will be taken to the incarcerated person. The incarcerated person will write on the request if they wish to submit to the interview. The incarcerated person will sign the request.
- If the incarcerated person consents to the interview, the shift supervisor will inform their staff, the media, and the incarcerated person to be interviewed of the time, place and conditions under which the interview will take place.

- If the incarcerated person does not consent to the interview, the shift supervisor will notify the media requesting the interview.
- The original request from the media will be filed in the incarcerated person's folder.
- Camera(s) and recording equipment will not be brought into the facility without prior approval of the shift supervisor.

Note: Generally, there is no problem with media persons bringing cameras and recording equipment into the facilities. However, these items may be searched prior to being brought into security areas. Searching of these items is at the discretion of the section manager or shift supervisor.

Persons bringing cameras into a facility shall be cautioned not to take identifiable photographs of incarcerated people, unless the incarcerated person grants written consent.

Cameras and recording equipment may be excluded if they pose a threat to the security and safety of the facility.