

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: FRATERNIZATION

M-300

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
January 18, 1996	04-01-2026	09-09-2013	07-11-2024

APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE: DPPM C-100, C-300, PC 289.6(2)

POLICY

All Sheriff's Office Personnel will be professional, ethical and vigilant in their conduct when interacting with and supervising Incarcerated persons. Staff fraternization with incarcerated persons is prohibited and can compromise the security and safety of the Sheriff's Office Detentions Facilities.

DEFINITION:

Fraternization is defined as the act of engaging in a close or personal relationship with another.

Personnel will not:

- Become sexually, emotionally, or personally involved with incarcerated persons. Pursuant to California Penal Code 289.6, sexual contact or activity between custodial officers and confined persons (incarcerated persons) is a crime.
- Grant special favors to incarcerated persons.
- Discuss personal matters with incarcerated persons either verbally or through written communications
- Discuss pending or adjudicated court cases with incarcerated persons.
- Become involved with or interested in any incarcerated persons pending or adjudicated court case.
 - This preclusion does not apply when the officer's official duties necessitate him or her becoming involved in a pending case. For example, an officer investigating a stabbing that occurred in the facility will necessarily become involved in the resulting court case.

- Discuss with incarcerated persons, or in the presence of incarcerated persons, the actions of officers or law enforcement agencies, whether personal or professional.
- Discuss with incarcerated persons, or in the presence of incarcerated persons, any items related to the security of the facility, law enforcement practices and/or equipment.
- Play games or participate in recreational activities with incarcerated persons.
- Have personal or financial dealings with incarcerated persons.
- Bring into or carry out of the facilities any items or information, written or oral, for incarcerated persons.
- If an officer learns of information that could be helpful in an investigation or prosecution, nothing in this policy is intended to preclude him/her from passing that information on to the appropriate person or agency.

DIRECTIVE A - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Sheriff's Office personnel who become aware of any incident of fraternization as prohibited by this policy shall confidentially report the incident to their supervisor as soon as practicable. In cases where the staff member has reason to believe the supervisor is involved in the fraternization, the confidential report shall be made to the next person in the chain of command or to the Personnel Division Commander.