

District of Columbia Corrections Information Council



RECOMMENDATION ASSESSMENT REPORT: BOP SENTENCE CALCULATION

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District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

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About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where residents from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

About the Recommendation Assessment Series

The Corrections Information Council inspects and reports on conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where DC Code offenders are located. The Recommendation Assessment series reviews and reports on common recommendations from previous inspection reports. The series also assesses the implementation of recommendations. In some instances, additional recommendations are provided to better address residents' needs. The CIC will monitor and report on the recommendations and publish updates following significant changes to the implementation or creation of new recommendations.

Previous Recommendation Summary

Recommendation	Status
Implement DC-specific computation training to ensure that staff know how to compute sentences.	Partially resolved

DC Code Offenders in Bureau of Prisons (BOP) custody present unique circumstances of eligibility for time credits, sentencing calculation, and early release opportunities. Sentencing rules such as ‘Old Law’ or the use of indeterminate sentences are unique to DC and the BOP has developed several policies to specifically address these circumstances.¹ While sentence computation is automated and conducted through the BOP’s Grand Prairie office, unit staff and case managers at each facility should be familiar with these policies so they can assist residents who believe their sentence calculation might be incorrect.

To ensure both DC residents in BOP custody and BOP staff are aware of the various additional legislative rulings that affect DC residents, the CIC created a legislative booklet for distribution to both incarcerated DC residents and BOP staff. The booklet includes information on the policies that govern sentence calculation and provides information for residents or staff who need to fix sentence calculation errors. The booklet also has information on compassionate release, the Second Look Act, and First Step Act time credits. The CIC hopes that the distribution of this information and the increased communication with the BOP Reentry Programming division will create shared understanding and address resident concerns over improper sentence calculation. The booklet will be updated and redistributed following any major changes to legislation or policy that will affect DC Code offenders.

¹ See BOP, “District of Columbia Sentence Computation Manual”, 5880.33, https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5880_033.pdf, “Sentence Computation Manual/Old Law”, 5880.30, https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5880_030.pdf, and “District of Columbia Youth Rehabilitation Act Offenders”, 5215.06, https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5215_006.pdf