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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #540139

Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 5120:1-8-04 Housing.

Effective: May 30, 2026

Full service jails shall provide inmates with sufficient space. The jail will maintain square footage and maximum occupancy documentation for all housing and holding areas, and will comply with the following minimum requirements:

(A) Holding cells:

(Important) Sixty square feet for one to three occupants with twenty square feet for each additional occupant up to a maximum of one hundred twenty square feet (six occupants).

(B) Housing cells:

(1) (Important) Seventy square feet for single occupancy forty-eight square feet in jails constructed prior to 1983.

(2) (Important) One hundred square feet with seven feet least dimension for double occupancy, stacked bunks, one hundred ten square feet with nine feet least dimension for double occupancy, single bunks.

(3) (Important) One hundred forty-five square feet with nine feet least dimension for triple occupancy, stacked bunk and single bunk; one hundred and seventy square feet with twelve feet least dimension for triple occupancy, single bunks.

(4) (Important) One hundred eighty square feet with nine feet least dimension for quadruple occupancy, two stacked bunks, two hundred fifteen square feet with twelve feet least dimension for quadruple occupancy, single bunks.

(C) Dormitory sleeping space:

(Important) Fifty square feet per occupant, except forty-eight square feet in jails constructed prior to 1983.

(D) Dayspace:

(Important) Thirty five square feet per number of occupants occupying the dayspace at one time. Minimum size of one hundred five square feet. The inmates will be granted regular, daily access to the dayspace area, subject to limitations necessary to maintain safety, security, and order. Jail administrators should approve any denial of dayspace in writing.

(E) (Important) Seating will be provided in holding areas, holding cells, housing cells, dormitories, dayrooms and eating areas for each inmate. In jails built prior to 2014, a permanent bed within holding and housing cells may be considered a seat.

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(F) (Important) Single cells/rooms and multiple occupancy cells/rooms/dormitories will have an air circulation of fifteen cubic feet of outside or recirculated filtered air per minute per occupant or as required by the local authority having jurisdiction. Documentation from a qualified source will be maintained by the jail.

(G) (Important) Temperature is mechanically raised or lowered to acceptable comfort levels.

(H) (Important) Sanitation facilities will include access to an operable flush toilet and lavatory with hot and cold potable water on a twenty-four hour a day basis without staff assistance.

(I) (Important) Toilet facilities at a minimum of one operable toilet for every twelve occupants. In jails built prior to 2014, a minimum of one operable toilet for every fifteen occupants. A maximum of two urinals per male housing unit will be considered one toilet for the purposes of the bureau-recommended capacity.

(J) (Important) Shower facilities at a minimum of one operable shower for every twelve occupants. In jails built prior to 2014, a minimum of one operable shower for every fifteen occupants. Water temperatures will be controlled thermostatically in a range from one hundred five to one hundred twenty degrees Fahrenheit.

(K) (Important) One operable wash basin with hot and cold potable water for every twelve occupants. In jails built prior to 2014, a minimum of one operable wash basin with hot and cold portable water for every fifteen occupants.

(L) (Important) Noise levels in inmate housing units will not exceed 70 dBA (A scale). Measurements will be conducted annually by a qualified source with at least one measurement taking place during night time hours and one measurement taking place during daytime hours.

(M) (Important) Natural light will be provided in housing units, dorms, cells and/or dayspaces.

(N) (Essential) Unadjudicated juvenile inmates will be separated by sight and sound from adult inmates.

(O) (Important) If inmate access to clothing, bed, bedding, toilet, lavatory and shower are suspended, there will be a daily review for reinstatement by the jail administrator or designee.