

1.1.A.11 Inmate Group Accounts

I Policy Index:



Date Signed: 01/07/2017
Distribution: Public
Replaces Policy: None
Supersedes Policy Dated: 12/09/2015
Affected Units: All Institutions
Effective Date: 01/11/2017
Scheduled Revision Date: December 2017
Revision Number: 6
Office of Primary Responsibility: DOC Administration

II Policy:

Each Department of Corrections (DOC) institution may establish group commissary accounts to receive and distribute funds donated to a recognized and approved religious or cultural group. Group accounts will be utilized for the maintenance and operation of approved institutional activities, functions, events and the purchase of approved supplies and services used by groups.

III Definitions:

None.

IV Procedures:

1. Application and Depositing of Funds:

- A. A recognized and approved inmate group existing within a DOC facility may request to be assigned a group banking account.
- B. Inmate group accounts will be established and maintained for the purpose of receiving and distributing funds.
 1. Approval of requests to establish a group account will be the responsibility of the Cultural Coordinator or other designated DOC staff member.
 2. Each institution shall maintain a complete and current list of approved group accounts.
- C. Inmates may contribute to group accounts by submitting a commissary slip to the facility's Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff member.
 1. The Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff member will forward all commissary slips to the facility business office for processing.
 2. All inmate requests for funds transfer to a group account are subject to the provision set forth in DOC policy 1.1.B.2 *Inmate Accounts and Financial Responsibility*.
- D. Personal checks or cash will not be accepted for deposit into a group account.

1. Non-inmates (members of the community/public) may contribute to the inmate group account by mailing a United States cashier's check, business account check or money order in U.S. dollars issued from a U.S. bank, in care of the institution or Cultural Coordinator.
2. Contributions received by mail must include the full name and return address of the sender (group or individual) and designate the intended group. Funds received for a group will be deposited into the group's account and are not for use or control by a specific inmate.
 - a. Incoming funds noting a particular inmate on the money order may be returned to the sender.

2. Purchases:

- A. Funds in the group account may only be accessed if at least two (2) inmates authorized by the group sign the commissary slip, authorize the withdrawal and application of funds from the group's account.
 1. The facility's Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff member will approve the two (2) inmates designated by the group members.
 2. No inmate will be authorized to sign commissary slips for more than one (1) inmate group account.
- B. The facility's Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff member will review all group purchase/spend requests prior to the withdrawal of funds. The Cultural Coordinator or designated staff person must sign the commissary slip prior to this being submitted to inmate banking for processing.
 1. Inmate group funds may only be accessed for purchases benefiting the group's members. Funds may not be accessed to purchase materials, supplies, services, etc. for individual group members. Funds shall not be used to purchase craft supplies
 2. Group requests/project applications must provide full funding details for purchasing requests. Group accounts cannot have a negative balance or have credit obligation/loans for purchases.
 3. Any outstanding debt incurred by the group will be withdrawn from the group account as funds become available until the debt is paid in full.
- C. Purchases paid from the group's account may include but are not limited to:
 1. Materials
 2. Supplies
 3. Services
 4. Meals/food items for rituals or ceremonies.
 5. Other expenses necessary to facilitate and maintain the operation of the group
- D. The Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff member is responsible for retaining copies of all bills of sale and receipts describing the materials, supplies or services purchased and paid from the group account.
 1. The verification may be in the form of a billing statement or itemized receipt.
 2. The group account may not be overdrawn or allowed to have a negative balance.

- E. The facility's business office staff will provide the Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff person with regular statements of the institution's group account balance.

3. General Group Account Information:

- A. Institutional group accounts are non-interest bearing and as such, will not be charged transaction fees.
- B. Reasonable charges, fees, postage or other expenses related to the management of the group account may be applied to the account as deemed appropriate by the DOC.
- C. If for any reason the inmate group is no longer active for a period exceeding one (1) year, and no Inmate(s) remain who have been designated by the group to authorize withdrawal of funds from the group account, the funds remaining may be withdrawn by the Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff member and transferred/applied to another group(s) account to fund activities offered at the facility for the benefit of the inmates.

V Related Directives:

DOC policy 1.1.B.2 -- [Inmate Accounts and Financial Responsibility](#)

VI Revision Log:

March 2012: New policy

January 2013: Reviewed with no changes.

October 2013: Deleted 2. "All inmate contributions to the group account are subject to the \$35.00 weekly spend limit in accordance with DOC policy" in Section 1 C. Deleted F. "Group accounts are not subject to the \$35.00 per week spending limit that applies to individual inmate spend accounts" in Section 2.

November 2014: Reviewed with no changes.

November 2015: Deleted "submitting" and Replaced with "mailing" and Added "in care of the facility or Cultural Coordinator" in Section 1 D. 1. Deleted "specify the name of the inmate group that is the intended recipient of the funds" and Replaced with "Received by mail must include the the full name and return address of the sender (a group or individual) and designate the intended group/account. Funds received that contain the name of a group account will be deposited into the group's account and will not be intended for use or control by a specific inmate." in Section 1 D. 2. Added a. to Section 1 D. 2. Added 2. and 3. in Section 2 B.

December 2016: Added "Funds shall not be used to purchase craft supplies" in Section 2 B. 1.

Denny Kaemingk (original signature on file)

Denny Kaemingk, Secretary of Corrections

01/07/2017

Date