



<b>POLICY TITLE: DE-ESCALATION INTERVENTION</b>  <b>POLICY NUMBER: 20.3 (AF)</b>  <b>CHAPTER 20: BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>PAGE <u>1</u> OF <u>3</u></b>
	<b>STATE of MAINE</b> <b>DEPARTMENT of CORRECTIONS</b>  <b>Approved by Commissioner:</b> 	<b>PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:</b>  <b>See Section VIII</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> <b>May 13, 2025</b>	<b>LATEST REVISION:</b>	<b>CHECK ONLY IF</b> <b>APA [    ]</b>

## I. AUTHORITY

The Commissioner of Corrections adopts this policy pursuant to the authority contained in 34-A M.R.S.A. Section 1403.

## II. APPLICABILITY

All Departmental Adult Facilities

## III. POLICY

The Department of Corrections provides for de-escalation intervention as an immediate and less restrictive response to manage the behavior of adult residents in situations which do not rise to the level of warranting placement on administrative status. This intervention is used as a de-escalation period for the resident or residents involved and also to allow staff to assess situations which might disrupt the good order of the facility. Such action is not to be used as punishment.

## IV. DEFINITIONS

None

## V. CONTENTS

Procedure A: De-Escalation Intervention

## VI. ATTACHMENTS

None

## VII. PROCEDURES

### Procedure A: De-Escalation Intervention

1. A resident engaged in unacceptable conduct which does not warrant placement on administrative status but which requires immediate intervention may be secured in the resident's cell or room ("tag-in") as a de-escalation intervention.

2. De-escalation intervention may only be used for one or more of the following reasons:
  - a. the resident has moved in the facility without authorization (e.g., has left their housing unit when not authorized to do so);
  - b. the resident is out of place, including by being in the cell or room of another resident;
  - c. the resident is disruptively argumentative toward staff, student intern, or volunteer or engages in provocation of any other person;
  - d. there is verbal altercation between residents who, if not secured in their cells or rooms, may resort to physical violence;
  - e. there is horseplay or a minor physical altercation occurring between residents; or
  - f. to investigate or prevent a potentially serious incident.
3. Any security staff may initiate the de-escalation intervention process. If the staff is not a security supervisor, the action must be reviewed immediately by a security supervisor. The de-escalation intervention may not continue unless approved by the security supervisor.
4. This intervention shall ordinarily last until the next scheduled out of cell time for that housing unit for residents at the same privilege level of the resident who is secured.
5. Staff initiating the intervention may, at their discretion, terminate the “tag-in” earlier than the scheduled time.
6. If the resident’s behavior in their cell or room is such that a security supervisor determines it necessary, they may approve the continuation of the “tag-in” for the remainder of the day. Under no circumstances is it permitted to continue a de-escalation intervention beyond the day of the incident.
7. Unless a security supervisor determines the resident is being disruptive in their cell or room, a resident on de-escalation intervention shall be allowed to attend:
  - a. pre-scheduled medical appointments;
  - b. pre-scheduled mental health appointments; and
  - c. pre-scheduled visits.
8. De-escalation intervention is not a punishment and does not preclude the taking of appropriate action through the disciplinary process.
9. In all cases, the following documentation shall be included in the housing unit log and as an incident report in the Department’s resident and client records management system:
  - a. name of resident(s);
  - b. time and description of the incident;
  - c. start time of the de-escalation intervention and who initiated it;
  - d. supervisor notification, if applicable;
  - e. supervisor approval or disapproval, if applicable;

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- f. supervisor's approval for continuation of de-escalation intervention for the remainder of the day, if applicable; and
- g. end time of the de-escalation intervention and, if ended early, who ended it.

**VIII. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

None

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