



Virginia Department of Corrections

General Service

Operating Procedure 320.3

Recreational Use of DOC Property

Authority:

Directive 320, *General Services*

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Operating Procedure 320.3, August 1, 2019

Access: ☐ Restricted ☒ Public ☐ Inmate

ACA/PREA Standards:

None

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REVIEW

The Content Owner will review this operating procedure annually and re-write it no later than three years after the effective date.

The content owner reviewed this operating procedure in July 2023 and determined that no changes are needed.

The content owner reviewed this operating procedure in July 2024 and determined that no changes are needed.

COMPLIANCE

This operating procedure applies to all units operated by the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC). Practices and procedures must comply with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, American Correctional Association (ACA) standards, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards, and DOC directives and operating procedures.

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DEFINITIONS

Correctional Facility Property - All property associated with an operating major institution, correctional field unit, work center, community corrections facility, etc.

Facility Unit Head - The person occupying the highest position in a DOC residential facility, such as an institution, field unit, or Community Corrections Alternative Program.

Other DOC Property - All property other than correctional facilities that the DOC owns, leases, or controls through other means.

Recreational Facilities - Picnic pavilions and other such structures and areas located on DOC property.

PURPOSE

This operating procedure establishes the conditions under which recreational activities are permitted on Department of Corrections (DOC) property.

PROCEDURE

I. Recreational Use of DOC Property

- A. Recreational use of DOC property will be limited to fishing and utilizing recreational facilities such as picnic pavilions and other such structures and areas on DOC property. Recreational use does not involve entering the secure perimeter of a correctional facility.
- B. Hunting on DOC property is prohibited.
- C. The Facility Unit Head or other Organizational Unit Head has the authority to grant or deny recreational privileges and to restrict and control the activity if permission is granted to utilize DOC property.
 - 1. Each Facility Unit Head or other Organizational Unit Head will establish the criteria for who will be allowed to access the DOC property under their span of control for recreational use.
 - 2. Usage must be in accordance with the safety and security needs of the DOC as well as consideration of any adverse public sentiment.
 - 3. Permission granted by the Facility Unit Head or their authorized designee is limited to only that DOC property under their span of control.
- D. Permission may be withdrawn at any time if the conditions of this operating procedure are violated or it is deemed to be inappropriate for the individuals to be on DOC property for security reasons or other legitimate operational circumstances. Such conditions must be in writing and made available when authorization is obtained.

II. Access to DOC Property

- A. The DOC is not liable for any personal injury or property damage sustained by any individual on DOC property for recreational purposes.
 - 1. Agreement to this condition will be documented on the *Recreational Activities on DOC Property Liability Agreement 320_F1*.
 - 2. The Agreement will not be required for routine staff use of recreational facilities during lunch breaks, etc.
- B. Permission to utilize DOC property for recreational purposes should be limited to current or retired DOC employees.
 - 1. The employee must acquire written authorization from the Facility Unit Head prior to utilizing DOC property for recreational purposes.
 - 2. Permission will only be granted after verification that the person possesses the required State of Virginia licenses and is properly identified as a current or retired DOC employee.
 - 3. Employees who have been terminated for disciplinary reasons or criminal activity will not be approved.
 - 4. Permission for fishing is granted for one year and must be renewed annually. Permission to utilize recreational facilities may be granted per event or on an ongoing basis.
- C. At the discretion of the Facility Unit Head, guests may be permitted to utilize DOC property for recreational purposes while accompanied by a current or retired DOC employee.
 - 1. All guests must possess an appropriate current State of Virginia License, if required by law.



2. Any person under the age of 18 years of age must be accompanied and directly supervised by their parent, legal guardian, or other adult with consent of the parent or legal guardian at all times while on DOC property.
 - a. Accompanied and directly supervised means that the minor must be within sight of the adult at all times.
 - b. The parent or legal guardian must possess the appropriate current license.

III. Fishing on DOC Property

- A. Any person fishing on DOC Property will be subject to all federal, state, or local laws, and all regulations promulgated by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; 4 VAC 15, *Board of Game and Inland Fisheries Regulations*.
- B. All individuals fishing on DOC property must possess and have on their person while actively engaged in the activity, an appropriate current Virginia licensure in accordance with COV §29.1-300 et seq., *Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Licenses* and any other applicable laws or regulations.
- C. All persons will be required to show their permits/licenses upon request to any on-duty DOC personnel or to any agent or representative of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
- D. Only the equipment, tackle, and methods authorized by the Virginia Game laws or regulations for the respective activity are allowed at any time on DOC property.

IV. Safety and Security Regulations

- A. Possession of and/or use of alcohol, marijuana, non-prescribed medications, or other controlled substances is strictly prohibited.
- B. Personal weapons and ammunition are not authorized on DOC property at any time, unless authorized by Operating Procedure 430.4, *Perimeter Security*.
- C. Vehicles are to remain locked when left unattended, all equipment and personal valuables must be securely stored in the vehicle and out of plain view.
- D. Access is limited to those areas designated by the Facility Unit Head.
- E. All persons will be responsible for disposing of their personal trash in an appropriate receptacle.
- F. Any fires must be contained in approved areas and equipment. All fires must be completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- G. Camping on DOC property is prohibited.
- H. Vehicles are restricted to established roadways only. All traffic control signage will be obeyed.
- I. Only boats with trolling motors are authorized for use on DOC waterways.
- J. Building and Grounds, Agribusiness buildings, (e.g., pole and covered barns), vehicle and other maintenance areas are off limits and access to these areas is prohibited.
- K. Any gate that is opened to allow entry to an approved area must be closed after entry. If a gate is already open then it must remain open.
- L. Destruction of state property is prohibited. No tree cutting, fence cutting, or affixing of any equipment to DOC property is allowed.

V. Publication of Facility Specific Recreational Use Guidelines

- A. Each facility will develop and provide an information sheet to each person granted permission to participate in recreational activities on DOC property containing, at a minimum, the following



information:

1. Days and hours for activities.
 2. Authorized equipment and tackle.
 3. Permissible fishing methods.
 4. Areas approved for access.
 5. Facility specific rules, restrictions, conditions, or requirements.
 6. Notification process of their presence on the property.
 7. Conditions and restrictions regarding approval for guests.
- B. These facility specific recreational use guidelines will be clearly posted or made available to the users of recreational areas.

REFERENCES

COV §29.1-300 et seq., *Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Licenses*

4 VAC 15, *Board of Game and Inland Fisheries Regulations*

Operating Procedure 430.4, *Perimeter Security*

ATTACHMENTS

None

FORM CITATIONS

Recreational Activities on DOC Property Liability Agreement 320_F1