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GOVERNOR

# State of Alabama Department of Corrections

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JOHN Q. HAMM  
COMMISSIONER

August 6, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION  
NUMBER

605

OPR: HEALTH SERVICES

## STAFF PARTICIPATION IN FORENSIC EVALUATIONS

### I. GENERAL

This Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) Administrative Regulation (AR) establishes the policies, procedures, and responsibilities for clarifying the restrictions on ADOC staff and Vendor staff participation in forensic evaluations.

### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the ADOC to ensure that ADOC staff and Vendor staff only participate in legal proceedings directly related to mental health services to inmates within ADOC custody and that such staff are prohibited from participating in forensic evaluations for any non-clinical purpose.

### III. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

**Forensic Evaluation:** A mental health evaluation for legal purposes by a psychologist or psychiatrist with a specialized training in forensics in which ADOC prohibits mental health staff from participating.

### IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The ADOC Director of Mental Health Services is responsible for ensuring oversight of the development of this AR.
- B. The ADOC Director of Psychiatry is responsible for ensuring this AR is consistent with relevant professional standards.
- C. The ADOC Regional Psychologists are responsible for oversight and monitoring of the implementation of this AR.
- D. The Vendor Mental Health Program Director is responsible for ensuring all Vendor staff receives training on the implementation of this AR.

- E. The Vendor Health Services Administrator and the Vendor Mental Health Site Administrator at each facility are jointly responsible for ensuring all Vendor staff at that facility receive training on the implementation of this AR.

**V. PROCEDURES**

- A. ADOC staff and Vendor staff will only participate in legal proceedings directly related to an inmate's mental health care.
- B. ADOC staff and Vendor staff will not conduct forensic evaluations or participate in the recruitment of outside providers to conduct forensic evaluations (e.g., competency to stand trial, mental state at the time of an alleged offense, competency to undergo proceedings associated with a capital offense, etc.).
- C. ADOC staff and Vendor staff may fulfill their clinical roles as outlined in AR 626, *Mental Health Consultation to the Disciplinary Process*.

**VI. DISPOSITION**

Any forms used will be disposed of and retained according to the Departmental Records Disposition Authority (RDA).

**VII. FORMS**

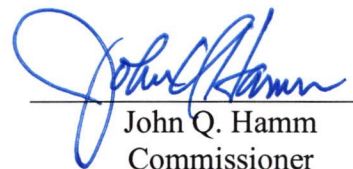
There are no forms prescribed in this AR.

**VIII. SUPERSEDES**

This Administrative Regulation supersedes AR 605, *Mental Health Staff Participation in Forensic Evaluations*, dated May 11, 2005, and any related changes.

**IX. PERFORMANCE**

- A. Code of Alabama 1975 § 14-1-1.1 *et seq.*
- B. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE, STANDARDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES (2015).
- C. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE, STANDARDS FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN PRISONS (2018).

  
John Q. Hamm  
Commissioner