PURPOSE

The purpose of this administrative directive is to identify the Vermont Department of Correction’s (DOC) philosophy and policies regarding food service operations.

PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of the DOC to offer inmates confined in its correctional facilities in Vermont nutritious, well presented meals, prepared in a sanitary manner. In addition, the DOC provides inmates who have a medical, dental, or religious need for a special diet with the means to fulfill those specific dietary needs. These dietary needs shall be fulfilled within institutional resources and consistent with the need for correctional facility security. The DOC shall also provide an alternative meatless diet.

AUTHORITY

28 V.S.A. §§ 101(1) and (5); 28 V.S.A. §§ 102(b)(2) and (c)(1); 28 V.S.A. § 856

REFERENCE

U.S. Health and Human Services and the USDA, 2015 Dietary Guidelines, Appendix 2. Table A 2-1, for populations between 19-50 years of age. American Correctional Association Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 4th Edition 2003, Standards 4-4318, 4-4319, 4-4320, and 4-4517. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons, OPI: HSD/FDS, Number: 4700.05, Date: June 12,
POLICY

It is the policy of the DOC to prepare and serve meals that meet or exceed standardized nutritional and quality control standards. In addition, the DOC provides meals that appropriately meet the dietary needs of inmates who have a medical, dental, or religious basis for a special diet, or who choose the alternative meatless diet. The DOC encourages inmates to adhere to medical diets, but inmates may refuse medical diet orders.

Special diets may apply to certain inmates confined in special housing units. In addition, there are times when individuals in the temporary custody of the DOC who are incapacitated as a result of their use of alcohol and/or other drugs may not safely consume food. In such circumstances, meals shall not be provided until the inmate is no longer at risk.

Correctional facility kitchens prepare meals to be consumed offsite by work crews and some offenders living offsite. The food prepared for off-site consumption does not need to reflect the same menu served at the correctional facility.

Food preparation and consumption in correctional facilities in Vermont shall be conducted in a clean and safe environment. The correctional facilities shall engage in safe and sanitary practices, and maintain sufficient documentation to establish ongoing compliance in all required areas.

General population inmates eat in a group dining area. Dining room service shall be conducted in a manner that enables inmates to enjoy meal periods to the fullest extent possible. The DOC recognizes that the manner in which meals are presented heavily influences the atmosphere of any institution, since meals generally assume a magnified importance in inmates’ routine.