



Department of Correction to Eliminate Use of All In-Cell Restraints

For Immediate Release – July 30, 2026

(WETHERSFIELD, CT) —The Interim Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction, Sharonda Carlos, on Monday, July 27, 2026, signed an agreement with Disability Rights Connecticut Inc. stipulating that the DOC will discontinue the use of in-cell restraints effective September 1, 2026.

The settlement reflects the Department's ongoing commitment to policies and procedures that prioritize safety, appropriate care, and basic human dignity. The agreement balances the safety of staff and that of the incarcerated population with the Department's mission to provide humane conditions of confinement. This settlement codifies steps that the Department of Correction has already begun to implement with regard to the use of in-cell restraints.

The settlement does allow for the use of full stationary restraints under certain circumstances, such as when an individual is engaging in acts of self-harm or is posing a serious threat to themselves, other incarcerated individuals or staff.

In-cell restraints are generally devices such as handcuffs, leg irons, waist restraints and other restraints used to limit an individual's movement while housed in a cell. The agreement states that full stationary restraints be limited to devices that are soft, wide, and flexible.

"This agreement serves as a continuation of the progress we have made using mental health interventions and de-escalation techniques as appropriate alternatives to more restrictive practices," said Interim Commissioner Sharonda Carlos. "I remain committed to providing the training and resources necessary to help correctional staff to safely manage challenging situations without the use of in-cell restraints."

Some of the other provisions of the settlement include staff training, revised protocols and ongoing oversight and internal auditing to ensure consistent compliance across all correctional facilities.

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