

**Section 10: Medical / Mental Health**

**Subject: Optical Care**

**Minimum Standard:**

**Revised: 09/2017**

**Authorized:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Effective date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth**

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Erie County Sheriff to provide Erie County Jail inmates with appropriate optical care and to ensure that, to the extent practicable, inmates are in possession of prescription eyeglasses and/or contact lenses.

**PROCEDURES**

- A. Any inmate requesting optical care shall inform the jail nurse during regular sick call of his/her request.
  - 1. The jail nurse will notify the jail physician of the inmate's request.
  - 2. The jail physician will review the request and, if necessary, will address the request according to accepted medical standards. Generally, jail inmates will be afforded optical care on an emergency basis; however, all optical care provided is at the discretion of the jail physician.
  - 3. An emergency optical care situation—including obvious physical injuries to an inmate's eye and/or complaint of sudden onset of impaired vision—shall be immediately addressed as would any other medical emergency by the Corrections Officer being so notified of the issue and/or the jail medical staff.
  
- B. Corrections Officers, upon inmate intake or at any time thereafter upon the inmate's request, will attempt to make arrangements on behalf of an inmate for the delivery to the jail of any prescription glasses, contact lenses, and/or contact lens supplies that the inmate may claim to need for proper vision if such items were not in the inmate's possession upon intake. If there is any reasonable doubt about the need for such glasses, contact lenses, or contact lens supplies, then the Corrections Officer to whom the request is made and/or his/her supervisor—at his/her discretion—and/or the jail nursing staff may contact the inmate's optometrist or ophthalmologist for confirmation of the prescription.

Upon delivery of the eyeglasses, contact lenses, and/or contact lens supplies to the jail the Corrections Officer receiving such items will inspect them for the presence of contraband. If no contraband is located, the Corrections Officer receiving the items will immediately cause for those items to be provided to the inmate in question, and the delivery of those items will be promptly and properly logged in association with the inmate's personal record. Conversely, if contraband is located during the inspection of the items, the inmate will receive none of the items; the items will be secured as evidence; and an appropriate report will be immediately completed and forwarded to the

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Jail Administrator. The fact that the inmate was denied the items due to the presence of contraband will be properly logged in association with the inmate's personal record.