

Section 3: Classification
Subject: Special Needs
Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03(B)(8)
Revised:

Authorized: _____ **Effective date:** _____
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

POLICY

The Erie County Jail shall recognize the special needs of inmates. Housing will be made available for inmates with medical, psychiatric needs, suicidal, sexually aggressive, or those at high risk for victimization. Inmates with violent or mental health issues shall receive more frequent observations. Handicapped accessible furnishings shall be made available for those in need (e.g. wheel chairs, toilets, showers, etc.).

PROCEDURE

1. Identification

- a. Identification of inmates who need alternative housing shall be made available by jail staff, medical staff, and mental health staff. Once an inmate's needs are identified, the shift supervisor will be notified so the inmate can be assigned to alternative housing.

2. Housing

a. Medical / Physical Handicapped

- i. Inmates deemed to have a medical or physical handicapped shall be housed in the medical cells in the medical ward. Criteria for this placement into this housing location may include:
 1. Need for chronic care.
 2. Need for convalescent care.
 3. Those who are physically handicapped.
 4. Have or suspected to have a contagious disease of infection.
 5. It is determined necessary by medical staff.

b. Close Observation

- i. Inmates who require close observation housing shall be housed in the holding cells. Close observation includes those inmates on:
 1. Ten minute suicide watch.
 2. Ten minute non-specific watch (i.e. restraints).
- ii. Criteria for this placement into this close observation may include:
 1. Suicide Risk.
 2. Mental Health Status (requires separation from General Population)
 3. Withdraw Risk.
 4. Are determined by staff to have a valid need to be separated from General Population.

Section 3: Classification

Subject: Special Needs (Continued)

Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03(B)(8)

Revised:

3. Rights and Privileges

- a. Inmates placed in medical and/or close observation housing will receive the same rights and privileges granted to those inmates in general population with few exceptions:
 - i. Inmates at risk of suicide will receive a suicidal smock and blanket and nothing else allowed in their cells.
 - ii. Out of cell time may be limited and/or some activities restricted due to inmate safety or the safety of others. This time may be used at the inmate's discretion for exercise, showering, phones calls, etc.

4. Review

- a. Inmates placed in medical and/or close observation housing will be reviewed by the medical/mental health staff.
- b. Only a medical or mental health professional may remove an inmate from medical and/or close observations housing.

5. Training

- a. New employees will be review this policy with a training officer.