

## **Area 10 Corrections Committee**

### **Carrying the message behind the walls...**

This is an opportunity to carry the AA message to confined alcoholics who would like to live sober.

The following information includes the step-by-step process for getting cleared to go into a Colorado DOC Correctional Facility (Prison). If you are interested in going into a County Facility or Youth Detention Center please contact your District Corrections Chair, DCM or the Facility Volunteer Coordinator as their clearance requirements are less stringent and each facility's clearance process varies.

### **Included in this Packet is following:**

1. How to correspond with an inmate through letter writing.
2. Information on becoming a Volunteer in a Colorado Prison.
3. Colorado Department of Corrections Volunteer Application.
4. The Colorado Department of Corrections Volunteer Training Schedule
5. Colorado Department of Corrections Guest Access Policy and Application

## **Area 10 Correspondence Chair**

AA members on the "outside" can contribute to their own sobriety and that of the inmate by becoming a Corresponding Contact. The Corresponding Contact communicates with the inmate by sharing their experience, strength and hope in a written letter. This helps the inmate to become acquainted with AA on the outside and your letter becomes a meeting in print for someone who may never or rarely, be able to participate in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Please send your letters to the following:

Area 10 Corrections Correspondence  
PO Box 40368  
Denver, CO 80204

**\*\*\*If you need clarification, have additional questions, or need to order AA approved literature for a facility please feel free to email the Area 10 Corrections Committee at [corrections@coloradoaa.org](mailto:corrections@coloradoaa.org)**

**\*\*\*\*\*THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE CDOC WEBSITE AND IS USED BY THE AREA 10 CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE AS INFORMATION TO ASSIST INTERESTED MEMBERS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN VOLUNTEERING\*\*\*\*\***

## **Becoming A CDOC Volunteer Colorado Department of Corrections**

The Department of Corrections is looking for people with the skills that offenders need to successfully re-enter society and a willingness to spend time teaching these skills. Faith and Citizen Programs is interested in proposals for both secular and religious programs. Volunteers are needed to teach computer, educational, life coping, parenting, and reading skills; as well as tutors and faith group volunteers.

**Most DOC Facilities allow AA Meetings. If you have questions whether a particular Prison facility currently has AA Meetings going you may: Call Kirk Machin (Pronounced "Machine") Phone: (719) 583-5840 or (719) 583-5975.**

## **VOLUNTEER PROCESS**

If you have "EVER" been convicted of a Sex Offense or Assaulting a Peace Officer "DON'T EVEN Apply".

Must be off Probation and/or Parole (Supervised Monitoring) for:

1 Year for a Misdemeanor (DUI, DWI are Misdemeanor's)

3 Years for a Felony

If all of the above apply then Fill out the attached CDOC Volunteer Application and Mail it to:

Colorado Department of Corrections

c/o Manager of Faith and Citizen Programs

2862 South Circle Drive

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906

You should receive a letter of Acceptance or Denial in the mail with 3-4 weeks (depending on mail service). If you haven't seen anything after one month Call Kirk Machin (Pronounced "Machine") Phone: (719) 583-5840 or (719) 583-5975.

- a) When filling out the application Answer the Questions HONESTLY:
- b) When the application asks:
- c) Have you EVER been arrested, charged or convicted of any felony or Misdemeanor? EVER MEANS EVER!
- d) If you are not sure about your "Background" you can either: Call Kirk Machin (Pronounced "Machine") Phone: (719) 583-5840 and explain you really do not remember.

Or, go to Colorado Bureau of Investigation website [www.colorado.gov/cbi](http://www.colorado.gov/cbi) the current price is \$6.85, this search is for Colorado ONLY.

1. Scroll down to **"Links"**

Select "Public Background Check"

Select "Public Background Check"

Select "Internet Background Checks"

Select "Individuals"

Select "Conduct an individual inquiry without setting up an account"

**Please read the following carefully:**

### **Terms and Limitations of Criminal History Searches and Reports**

1. A non-refundable fee of \$6.85 will be charged for every search, regardless of search results. If more than one record matches your description, each record match viewed will be an **additional \$6.85**.
2. To retrieve a criminal history record, it is recommended you enter the exact spelling of the person's name and the correct date of birth (NOTE - **DO NOT** use suffix i.e. Jr, Sr, I, II, Esq ). Although, to ensure a more accurate response, you may want to include the optional criteria, which are the social security number, gender and race. Use of maiden and or alias names will require an additional \$6.85 search. **Misspellings may result in a failed search.**

3. CBI shall deny any person access to records of official actions and criminal justice records unless such person agrees to a statement which affirms that such records shall not be used for the direct solicitation of business for pecuniary gain.

I hereby affirm that the records I am requesting shall not be used for the direct solicitation of business for pecuniary (financial) gain. (Per Colorado Revised Statute: 24-72-305.5)

4. If you have lived in more than one state (even if you're not sure of where), you can do a "National Check", this is a **"Finger Print Search"** (you may contact your local Law Enforcement Office to have your Finger Prints taken) the cost for this search is currently \$18.00 and could take 14-16 weeks. **Call the FBI in West Virginia for their procedure 304-625-2000.**

5. CDOC will do a National Search however; if you do not list everything you could be denied for one calendar year.

**Items listed below includes the Application, Basic Volunteer Training (New Volunteers), Facility Orientation, Annual Update Application and Annual Update Volunteer Training.**

1. **Application to CDOC for Background Investigation** Potential volunteers must make individual application by submitting form 900-1A (two pages). Each applicant will undergo a background investigation to explore criminal history. Volunteers will receive an Approval / Denial Letter when background is complete. This letter will include instructions for approved volunteers to schedule themselves for the Basic Volunteer Training and will include a statewide training schedule.
2. **Basic Volunteer Training - BVT (6-8 Hrs)** Only individuals who have been cleared through the application and background process are allowed to attend training. Training will include: Introduction to CDOC, Professionalism, Offender Supervision, Games Offenders Play, Positive Professional Communication, Working with Sex Offenders and Female Offenders, and Hostage Survival. Upon successful completion of this training each volunteer will complete the Volunteer Agreement and Training Certification forms.
3. **Facility Orientation and Tour (up to 2 Hrs)** Facility Orientation Tours are required at each facility a volunteer plans to access. Following successful completion of the Basic Volunteer Training, each volunteer will contact the appropriate Facility Volunteer Coordinator (listed on the Training Schedule) to arrange the Facility Orientation Tour. Upon successful completion of this tour(s) each volunteer will complete the Orientation form (AR 900-1D) to be held for Warden Approval.
4. **Warden Approval (Form AR 900-1D)** By statute each Warden / designee is responsible for approving all individuals entering the facility. The Warden's signature on the Orientation form satisfies this requirement and completes this process. Volunteer's Facility access is not established until the Warden's signature has been issued and the Faith and Citizen Programs office has processed the forms. **Please Note:** Approved Volunteers will be notified by mail, e-mail or phone call, by the Facility Volunteer Coordinator once all steps have been completed. Notification will include the program day/date and time of approved facility access. Welcome to the CDOC.
5. **Volunteer May Now Access CDOC Facility (Per Volunteer Roster)** Approved volunteers are not allowed unrestricted access. They may access only for their approved program(s) as scheduled by the Facility Volunteer Coordinator. Approved volunteers are allowed access by signing in and exchanging their photo ID for a Green Volunteer Badge.
6. **Annual Update Application and Background Investigation are required.** To remain an active CDOC Volunteer each individual is required to submit an Annual Update Application (form AR 900-1A, two page). An annual background investigation will be done and unless something new is revealed the volunteer remains active.
7. **Update Volunteer Training - UVT (2 hrs)** Annually each volunteer is required to attend a four-hour refresher class to remain active. These classes are offered throughout the year at various locations around Colorado. See the current Volunteer Training Schedule for dates and locations.
8. **Guest Access** - Individuals who are potential volunteers or are affiliated with an approved special event must complete and submit a Guidelines for Guest (AR 900-1J) to affected facilities for consideration.



## Faith and Citizen Programs Volunteer Application

Check One: ☐ New Volunteer ☐ Annual Update ☐  
 Mail completed form to: **Colorado Department of Corrections** Phone: (719) 226-4291  
 c/o Faith and Citizen Programs Administrator  
 1250 Academy Park Loop  
 Colorado Springs, CO. 80910

Or email completed form to: doc\_volunteering@state.co.us  
 Please print or type your LEGAL name as it appears on your driver's license.

Last Name  First Name  MI  Gender ☐ M ☐ F ☐

Other Names Used (Maiden, Alias, Etc.)  Birth Date (MM-DD-YYYY)

E-Mail Address

Address (please notify FCP of any change of address)

City/Town  State  Zip Code

(Notify FCP of any change of phone number or address within 24 hours to stay current in our system)

Area Code/Home Phone  Area Code/Work Phone/Extension  E ☐ X ☐ T ☐

Social Security  -  -  Ethnicity   
 Driver's License: State  #

In Case of Emergency Notify:  
 Name:  Phone: (  )

Name of Approved DOC Program:   
 Address  Phone   
 E-Mail:   
 Name of Program Leader:   
 Signature of Program Leader: /s/

Are you receiving any school credit/compensation for your volunteer service? Yes ☐ No ☐  
 If yes, please explain:

Facility Preference: Please check one or more Any Facility <input type="checkbox"/>					
Arkansas Valley Corr. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACC, FMCC, CMC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Den. Women's Corr. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beacon at Skyline	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colorado State Penitentiary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fremont Cor. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bent County Corr. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crowley County Corr. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	La Vista Cor. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buena Vista Corr. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delta Cor. Cntr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limon Cor. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Centennial Corr. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Denver Reception and Diagnostic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rifle Cor. Cntr.	<input type="checkbox"/>
				San Carlos Cor. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Sterling Cor. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Territorial Cor. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Trinidad Cor. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Youthful Off. Sys.	<input type="checkbox"/>

For DOC Use Only (Please leave this section blank)

Visiting:   
 Criminal Record Check By:   
 Date Investigation Completed:   
 Application Reviewed By:   
 Application Is: Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Review ☐  
 Reason:

**Volunteer Application - Page 2**

Offender Relationships - Please answer each question yes or no.		No	Yes
1.	Are you related to any DOC offender (including probationer or parolee)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Within the last two years have you visited (outside of your volunteer program) with any DOC Offender (including probationer or parolee)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Within the last two years have you written to or corresponded with any DOC offender (including probationer or parolee)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Have you, or someone you know, <i>EVER</i> been victimized by a current DOC offender?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Do you currently have any legal action involving any DOC offender?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes explain below. Including names, DOC numbers relationship, facility, etc. Attach additional explanation if necessary.			

**Criminal History:** False or incomplete information on this application will be grounds for denial or termination. A Criminal record does not necessarily make you ineligible for volunteer service.

Please answer each question yes or no.				No	Yes
1. Have you <b>EVER</b> been arrested, charged or convicted of any sex-related offense?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have you <b>EVER</b> been arrested, charged or convicted of any felony?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have you been arrested, charged or convicted of any misdemeanor within the last 10 years?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Have you <b>EVER</b> been incarcerated in a correctional facility?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are there <b>ANY</b> charges pending against you for any criminal offense?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If yes, complete the blanks below and attach additional explanation if necessary.</b>					
Month/Year	Offense or Charge	Disposition	Arresting Agency	City	State

**New volunteers must attend Basic Volunteer Training within six months of application approval.**

To remain active, please notify the DOC whenever your address changes. Thank you.

I understand this form is the first step in becoming a Colorado Department of Corrections volunteer. If approved I will be required to complete a basic volunteer training and a facility specific orientation for each facility I am approved to access. I understand I will be required to adhere to all Colorado Department of Correction rules and regulations, including but not limited to those pertaining to security, searches, offender relations, contraband, PREA and professional conduct. I understand each administrative head has final discretion to approve or deny my volunteer service at the facility level.

I authorize representatives of the Colorado Department of Corrections to make any and all appropriate inquiries regarding my background and I release the Colorado Department of Corrections and its representatives from any liability which may result from such action.

SIGNATURE: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

The volunteer training schedule is posted on the website at:

<https://cdoc.colorado.gov/about/community-engagement/volunteer-opportunities>

Online Update Volunteer Training (UVT) and Basic Volunteer Training (BVT) classes are available. Volunteers will attend UVT and BVT classes via Google Meet. Volunteers will need to sign up by sending an email to [doc\\_volunteering@state.co.us](mailto:doc_volunteering@state.co.us) so that we can send you an invitation to join the class via your email address.

## **VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEDULE:**

### **October BVT classes:**

Wednesday 10/11/2023 @ 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Saturday 10/21/2023 @ 9:00 AM-5:00PM

### **October UVT classes:**

Saturday 10/7/2023 @ 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Friday 10/20/2023 @ 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Wednesday 10/25/2023 @ 1:00 PM-5:00 PM

### **November BVT classes:**

Wednesday 11/8/2023 @ 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Saturday 11/18/2023 @ 9:00 AM-5:00PM

### **November UVT classes:**

Saturday 11/4/2023 @ 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Friday 11/17/2023 @ 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Thursday 11/30/2023 @ 1:00 PM-5:00 PM

## **Contact Faith and Citizen Programs**

**1250 Academy Park Loop**

**Colorado Springs, CO 80910**

**Phone: 719-226-4291**

**Email: [doc\\_volunteering@state.co.us](mailto:doc_volunteering@state.co.us)**

## Guidelines for Guests

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You are requesting clearance to visit a Colorado Department of Corrections facility as a guest. To make your visit safe we ask you to read the following guidelines and sign on page 2. Remain with your escort at all times and follow directions. Enjoy your visit.

The completed form must be submitted for each guest request when providing background information for clearance.

### Do's for Guests

- **DO REMEMBER!!! SECURITY ALWAYS COMES FIRST!**
- Do follow DOC rules. Ask questions if you are uncertain.
- Do dress appropriately. Casual business attire. Conservative is best.
- Do sign-in and sign-out on the appropriate forms each time you enter or leave ANY DOC FACILITY.
- Do wear the appropriate badge in view of security DOC employees at all times. (Green – Volunteer, Red – Guest)
- Do respect the confidentiality of records and other privileged information. Listen carefully and sincerely.
- Do recognize the need for ongoing training and supervision.
- Do be loyal to the DOC and the offenders you serve. Be a team player and always remain professional.
- Do be dependable. Arrive and leave on time. Earn respect from the offenders and DOC employees.
- Do notify the facility coordinator or shift commander if it is impossible to be at the facility on time.
- Do treat everyone in a professional and ethical manner, but do not become personally involved.
- Do treat offenders with respect. Maintain honesty and accept others whose values system maybe different from your own.
- Do be objective, enthusiastic, mature and confident. Do use discretion and good judgment.
- Do submit reports when required.
- Do obtain written approval from the facility volunteer coordinator prior to changing the program formats.

### Don'ts for Guests

- Do not supply phone number or address or personal information about yourself, other volunteers, or DOC employees.
- Do not touch offenders inappropriately (NO HUGGING – Handshake only).
- Do not criticize what is not understood. Ask for an explanation.
- Do not make a phone call for an offender, or perform any similar service.
- Do not give anything to an offender.
- Do not take anything, including letters, into a facility. Bring nothing out without explicit permission.
- Do not enter into a business venture with an offender.
- Do not give gifts, loans, or items to an offender. Do not accept gifts, loans, or items from an offender.
- Do not use photography equipment on institutional property for any purpose without specific permission.
- Do not proselytize. You may share your faith beliefs when asked.
- Do not make derogatory remarks about ANY faith group or other organization.
- Do not promise to keep information given you by an offender confidential if it involves safety and security in any manner.
- Do not wear tight fitting clothing, shorts, cut offs, dresses above the knees, or any revealing clothing.

**Any violations of these do's and don'ts may result in the termination of your volunteer/guest service!**

## Security Issues

Safety and security are our top priority. If you observe an unsafe or non-secured condition, notify your facility chaplain, volunteer coordinator, or other DOC employees immediately.

Professionalism: Volunteers aid DOC employees. Appearance, conduct, language, and attitude reflect your character and integrity. Earn respect and be patient with DOC employees.

Personal parameters and boundaries: When possible, use formal titles, such as: Administrative Head, Captain, Officer, Mr., Ms., or Sir. Do not befriend an offender for the purpose of intimacy. Do not supply your phone number or address, or personal information about yourself, another volunteer, or DOC employee. Avoid contact with an ex-offender.

Contraband: Any item not specifically authorized by a departmental administrative directive may be considered contraband and may be confiscated to avoid compromising facility safety and security. Offender property must come from approved sources - NOT VOLUNTEERS OR GUESTS. REMEMBER: *Nothing in; nothing out.*

Search procedures: Any person and/or vehicle is subject to search upon entering the grounds of a correctional facility. Volunteers and guests may refuse to be searched. Such refusal will result in termination of volunteer or guest status. Facility access may require an individual to clear a metal detector. Ensure clothing and additional adornment items are free of metal (bobby pins, hair ties, ink pens, etc.).

Managing aggressive behavior: If an offender becomes hostile, remain calm, back away, and immediately seek DOC employee assistance; correctional employees are trained to handle difficult situations. If alone, gradually move to a location where you can be seen by DOC employees.

Offender Fights: Do not try to break up offender fights. Summon DOC employees to handle the situation.

## Meet Your Clients

Offenders are former free citizens who have committed crimes and are now confined. These offenders are like us in many ways. They have dreams, loved ones, and they laugh and cry. You may notice a sense of hopelessness among members of the offender population. As a volunteer or guest with an offender program, you bring in affirmation, encouragement, and hope.

Offenders tend to fall into one of four prison cultures:

1. Individuals: A large majority of these offenders come from dysfunctional families. Physical or sexual abuse during childhood is common. Lack of education may cause people to turn to crime. Many offenders are functionally illiterate. Drug and alcohol use are often major influences in offender's lives.
2. Ethnic groups: The offender population within the DOC is made up of several ethnic groups. The percentages of these groups vary in day to day operation. Be aware of the differing ethnic groups, and treat all with professional respect.
3. Gangs: Many offenders were gang members before incarceration. Others become members in prison as a means of survival. There are many different gangs represented in prison. Violence is often a part of gang affiliation.
4. Institutionalized: Prison becomes a comfort zone to this group of offenders. Since the DOC provides all their necessities, they are comfortable in prison and therefore hesitant to leave the prison environment.

Offender Relationships - Please circle yes or no for each question. *Please submit written details for any 'yes' on a separate sheet of paper.*

- |    |   |     |    |
|----|---|-----|----|
| 1. | Are you related to any DOC offender (including parolee)?                                | Yes | No |
| 2. | Within the last two years have you visited with any DOC offender (including a parolee)? | Yes | No |
| 3. | Within the last two years have you written to or corresponded with any DOC offender?    | Yes | No |
| 4. | Have you, or someone you know, <i>EVER</i> been victimized by a current DOC offender?   | Yes | No |
| 5. | Do you currently have any legal action involving any DOC offender?                      | Yes | No |

Please Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_