



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



November 5, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

REPORT BACK REGARDING INCARCERATED PERSONS' ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

On June 25, 2024, the Board of Supervisors requested the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department (Department) report back on providing access to menstrual products for incarcerated persons within the County jail system; in addition, the Department is to ensure all staff comply with Assembly Bill (AB) 732 (2020) (Bonta) and adhere to all policies related to the availability and accessibility of menstrual products. Compliance with AB 732 (2020) and the associated Department policies will be attained through Department training, and oversight (Agenda Item #4).

1. Previous laws required a person who is incarcerated in state prison or confined in a local detention facility, or a state or local juvenile facility, or a Division of Juvenile Justice facility, and who menstruates or experiences uterine or vaginal bleeding to, upon request, have access to, be allowed to use, and continue to use materials necessary for personal hygiene concerning their menstrual cycle and reproductive system, including, but not limited to, sanitary napkins and tampons. The AB 732 (2020) requires the person to have ready access to these menstrual products without requesting them.

The Department has made progress in providing menstruating incarcerated persons access to menstrual products. Providing these products to menstruating incarcerated persons is a matter of health, human rights, and dignity.

We have implemented procedures to ensure menstruating incarcerated persons have access to menstrual hygiene products.

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- a. On April 4, 2024, the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) revised their unit order (#5-16-040) to ensure every menstruating incarcerated person housed at CRDF may have access to sanitary napkins, panty liners, and tampons. All feminine hygiene products are to be readily available in common areas within each module or pod setting. The unit order is aligned with Custody Division Manual (CDM) 5-13/090.00: Personal Care Items and Supplies for Inmates.

After the policy revision, CRDF supervisors ensured all general population and medium observation housing areas were fully supplied with menstrual products in various parts of the modules where inmates may have full, and unlimited access to menstrual products whenever needed.

- i. The CRDF is working collaboratively with Correctional Health Services (CHS) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to continue providing menstrual products to menstruating incarcerated persons in High Observation Housing and may include individuals who have been identified as a suicide risk. A working group comprised of CHS, DMH, and custody personnel were put in place to consistently communicate with each other to ensure menstruating incarcerated persons on suicide precautions have access to the necessary menstrual products for their dignity and hygiene. Several steps have been taken to ensure this collaboration can effectively provide menstrual products, thereby promoting the menstruating incarcerated persons health, dignity, and overall well-being. The working group understands the delicate balance between safety and the needs of the mentally ill population. Therefore, there will be a continued effort to determine a safe and secure means to distribute menstrual products. When a safe alternative is identified, policy will reflect the change.

The collaborating group oversees the implementation and addresses any issues related to policy development. These policies will align with health guidelines and uphold individual rights and dignity.

We regularly evaluate our policy and make necessary modifications based on changing needs.

- b. The CRDF has conducted in-person briefings to inform custody personnel of CRDF Unit Order #5-16-040. The briefings emphasized providing menstruating incarcerated persons full and unlimited access to feminine hygiene products. The CRDF sergeants are ensuring the availability of these products by conducting weekly audits to ensure compliance. The on duty

Watch Commander is responsible for documenting the audits in the Watch Commander Log.

2. Request #2 is directed to the Probation Department.
3. Generic brand menstrual products are provided at no cost to incarcerated persons. Name brand products are available for purchase through commissary.

The Department anticipates an increased cost due to inmates' unrestricted access to menstrual products. The Department will work with the Chief Executive Office to identify additional funding sources to make up any increased cost.

In addition to the efforts at CRDF, the Department has put policies in place to ensure accessibility to menstrual products within the station jails and court holding cells. A re-brief of CDM 6-15/010.00 Inmate Clothing, Bedding, and personal Hygiene was sent to all station jailers and station captains to emphasize the requirement for "ready access to sanitary napkins, panty liners, and tampons." Court Services Division Manual 2-06/010.01 Personal Care Items for Female Inmates applies to all court holding tanks and was revised September 11, 2024, to reflect that "All female inmates shall have unrestricted access to menstrual products, ensuring they do not need to request such items from custody personnel."

By adhering to industry standards, the Department will meet the needs and menstrual health of menstruating incarcerated persons effectively and respectfully.

A copy of this response will be provided to the Office of Inspector General, Sybil Brand Commission, and Civilian Oversight Commission upon final approval by the Board of Supervisor Liaison Team.

Should you have any questions, please contact Acting Chief Tania Plunkett, Custody Services Division, Specialized Programs, at (213) 893-5926.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF