

Hearing Officer Hughes:

Good morning, we are going to get started at this time, today is Friday, May 9th, 2025, and the time is now 11:01 AM. My name is Lindsey Hughes, I am the Chief of the Policy and Auditing Unit at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. Joining me today from the Department of Corrections is, Ryan Crowley Chief of Staff, Jessica Harrold, Principal Management and Methods Analyst in the Policy and Auditing Unit, Nicole DiLibero, Administrative and Legal Support Services Administrator, and Brenda Baum, Deputy Chief of Legal Services.

(Pause)

This hearing is being conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws of Rhode Island. In accordance with these requirements, a public notice of this hearing was posted on the Secretary of State's and the Rhode Island Department of Corrections websites. We are here to receive public comment or public input with respect to the proposed changes to the Access to Institutional Facilities by Attorneys and their Agents regulation that the Rhode Island Department of Corrections has promulgated for notice and comment. This hearing is not intended as a means of providing a forum for discussing, debating, or otherwise having any dialogue at this time. This meeting is being recorded.

(Pause)

For the record, let it be noted, we received a request at our prior hearing at 10:00 AM regarding the Inmate Mail policy, registered speaker number one (1) from that hearing requested to be permitted to provide testimony and comment on the proposed amendments to the Attorney Access to Facilities, the Access to Institutional Facilities by Attorneys and Their Agents regulation prior to the formal opening of this hearing. We are including that testimony in this public record.

(Pause)

Jessica Harrold, from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, will be serving as the moderator of this session, which means she will be responsible for the proceedings orderly and efficient operation so that attendees have full and fair opportunity to offer such comments, as they desire, regarding the Access to Institutional Facilities by Attorneys and their Agents policy.

(Pause)

Here are some ground rules for the proceedings: First, we will hear comments, in the order that people signed up; there is a sign-up sheet located on the table near the entrance. Each speaker will be limited to five (5) minutes unless the number of speakers allows for additional time. If you are approaching the five (5) minute mark, Jessica will give you a warning. All interested parties are invited to submit written comments concerning the proposed amendment until May 27th, 2025, by contacting the appropriate party listed on the public notice of proposed rulemaking. Copies of the public notice are available on the table near the sign-up sheet. For your oral testimony, we remind everyone to please speak clearly, and loudly, so that your comments can be heard. When your name is called, we ask that all attendees please take a seat at the table in front and identify themselves for the record stating their full names and whether they are speaking on behalf of any organization or entity. Lastly, we ask that your comments be limited to the proposed changes to the Access to Institutional Facilities by Attorneys and their Agents

policy as that is the sole purpose of today's meeting. Discussions not related to this topic will not be permitted and may result in the forfeiture of your time to speak. Any disrespectful or inappropriate behavior will not be permitted and will result in your removal from the meeting. If anyone has any questions about the proceedings, please ask them at this time. Seeing none I will turn it over to Jessica to call on attendees to offer comment.

Moderator Harrold:

Good morning, at this time, there are no attendees present. We will keep this hearing open for an additional fifteen (15) minutes, until 11:20, to see if anyone joins us and would like to provide comment.

Moderator Harrold:

The time is now 11:20, and this meeting is now closed.