

RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSES

Regulation(s): Conduct of Public Hearings

(240-RICR-00-00-3)

Summary of Rulemaking Action: The purpose of this Regulation is to establish a defined set of procedures for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections for the conduct of Public Hearings regarding Proposed Rulemaking.

Public Comment Period: 12/16/2025 through 1/18/2026

Public Hearing: A public hearing in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed adoption was held on Tuesday, December 30th at 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room "A" of the Powers Building located at 1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908.

Summary of Received Public Comments: RIDOC received written testimony from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island.

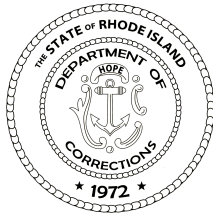
Multiple Submission Methods

Comment Summary:

The commenter objects to the requirement in Section 1.4.3(B) that members of the public who submit hearing testimony by mail must also submit a copy via email in order for the testimony to be considered. The commenter states that this requirement may create a barrier to participation, particularly for individuals directly affected by Department regulations who may not have reliable internet access. The commenter recommends that mailed testimony be accepted without an electronic submission requirement.

Agency Response:

The Department appreciates this comment and acknowledges the concern regarding potential barriers to participation in the public hearing process. The dual-submission requirement was intended to help ensure that testimony is received and logged through verifiable channels. Upon further review, the Department agrees that requiring an electronic duplicate may create an unnecessary obstacle for some members of the public and may limit participation.



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In response, the Department will amend the regulation to permit submission of written testimony by mail, hand delivery, or email as stand-alone methods. Consistent with related revisions in other rule sections, the Department will add non-mandatory guidance encouraging individuals who submit testimony by mail to use delivery options that provide confirmation of receipt. The Department believes this revision better supports broad public participation while maintaining administrative reliability.

Terminology

Comment Summary:

The commenter recommends removing the phrase “disorderly gesticulations” from Section 1.4.4(A), expressing concern that the term is vague and potentially confusing. While acknowledging the Department’s authority and need to maintain order during public hearings, the commenter states that the phrase should be stricken.

Agency Response:

The Department appreciates this comment and upon review, has no objections to removing the phrase “disorderly gesticulations” from the regulation. The Department will revise the final regulation to remove this phrase with the hope of improving clarity and reducing ambiguity.

RIDOC appreciates the publics’ time and effort taken to review the proposed regulations and submit comments that helps strengthen clarity, accessibility, and effectiveness of the Department’s regulatory framework.