

The Department is notifying the Board of an emergency situation and declaration of an emergency variance pursuant to §1-15(b)(3) of the Minimum Standards. An emergency situation prevents the Department's continued compliance with §1-03(c,d,f,g,j) Shaving, Haircuts, Personal Health Care Items, Clothing, Housing Areas; §1-04(b)(2-3) Single Occupancy; §1-05(a-c) Lock-In; §1-06 Recreation; 1-07(c,h) Congregate Religious Services; §1-08(b-d) Judicial and Administrative Proceedings, Access to Counsel, Access to Co-Defendants; §1-08(f)(4) Law Library Access; §1-08(g)(2-4) Legal Documents and Supplies Access; §1-09(c-d,f) Visiting Schedule, Initial Visit, Contact Visits; §1-11(c-d) Outgoing Correspondence; §1-12(d) Packages; §1-13(a-c) Publications; and §1-14 (a-b) Access to Media, as they pertain to an individual in custody suspected of concealing a weapon and the placement of that individual in separation status housing.

On July 17th, 2019 an individual in Department custody was involved in a violent incident, causing serious injury. Following review of Genetec video and in consideration of the injuries (lacerations) suffered by the victim, it was determined that the individual was the perpetrator of a slashing incident and was suspected to be in possession of a bladed weapon. The individual subsequently received a body scan on July 18th, 2019. The body scan returned a positive finding for an unknown metallic object (suspected weapon) located in the individual's body cavity. Following the positive finding, the individual was processed and placed in separation status on July 19th, 2019 pending recovery of the suspected weapon.

Maintaining the safety and security of individuals in custody and staff is a critical function and responsibility of the Department. The existence of a suspected weapon in a Department facility poses a significant threat to the safety of the population in custody and staff. The nature of this emergency situation prevents the Department's continued compliance with the Minimum Standards enumerated above. The Department appreciates the Board's consideration of this matter.