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DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS

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OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR

## POIRIER HAS PRISON HEARING

Following an administrative hearing at Oregon Women's Correctional Center, Tracy Lee Poirier, 37, was sanctioned in accordance with prison rules for her August 28, 1998, escape from Oregon Women's Correctional Center.

Additionally, the Department of Corrections will encourage the Marion County District Attorney to pursue criminal charges regarding the escape.

Poirier and her alleged accomplice, Pamela Kay Trimble, were captured in Rhode Island on September 28, 1998. Poirier was returned to Oregon Friday evening, February 5, 1999. She is serving two life sentences out of Douglas County for aggravated murder.

Trimble was extradited to Oregon late last month. (Note to editors: Trimble is a former correctional officer in the Coos County Jail and has never been employed or affiliated with the state Department of Corrections or its prisons.)

Poirier was charged with violating three specific prison rules: Escape, Conspiracy to Possess an Escape Device (bolt cutters) and Destruction of Property (fence, window, bar covering window). Because each is a major violation, the hearings officer sanctioned her to 120 days in the Disciplinary Segregation Unit, imposed the maximum fine of \$200, and ordered restitution.

Hearings officers have the authority to recommend additional sanctions. In this case, the hearings officer recommended an upward deviation in the segregation sanction of 60 additional days, which must be approved by an assistant director.

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The amount of restitution is yet to be determined, but will include the cost of repairs to property and the expense to taxpayers of the search, capture, extradition and return. It is likely to be many thousands of dollars.

Poirier returned to a prison with enhanced security. A new electronic alarm system on the perimeter fence detects significant movement including climbing and cutting. Additional security screening has been installed on most of the prison's cell windows, adding yet another metal barrier to the outside. An armed correctional officer circles the prison's perimeter on patrol.

"We constantly vary our security practices," explained Sonia Hoyt, superintendent of Oregon Women's Correctional Center. "We don't like to be predictable or give inmates the impression of a routine."

Upon arrival, Poirier was served a misconduct report detailing her escape. She has been housed in disciplinary segregation pending today's hearing.

"Ms. Poirier is looking at an austere six months," said Superintendent Hoyt. "She will only be allowed to visit with family members, and even then its behind glass. She'll be allowed limited writing materials and library books. She'll be given basic hygiene items and allowed three showers a week. Her out-of-cell exercise is under supervision. She will be allowed access to medical services if needed."

Following her segregation sanction, Inmate Poirier's classification will be reviewed. Should she be reclassified as a maximum custody inmate, she will remain under tight security. "Because of the small size of Oregon Women's Correctional Center, it is likely that she will remain in the same cell if she scores maximum," Mrs. Hoyt added. "We also won't rule out an out-of-state placement for her under the terms of the Interstate Compact." Interstate Compact describes a system among many departments of corrections to swap inmates who are difficult to supervise in their home state.