



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Office of the Director

Washington, DC 20534

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM:

Kathleen Hawk Sawyer
Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons

John W. Marshall
John W. Marshall, Director
United States Marshals Service

Doris Meissner
Doris Meissner, Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

SUBJECT: Detention Standards

Beginning in July 1999, a series of work group meetings was held with representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the United States Marshals Service (USMS), and the Bureau of Prisons (Bureau). The goal was to create a single set of detention standards that applies to all detention facilities operated or contracted by these three agencies.

After extensive discussions, the work group developed the enclosed set of standards. The document identifies 55 individual standards addressing seven broad areas. Although all three agencies have responsibility for housing detained offenders, the roles of the agencies vary to a considerable degree. To meet the differing missions of the agencies, the standards are designed to address only the most critical elements common to all three agencies. The standards seek to ensure that detainees are housed

in facilities that are safe and secure, and that those facilities provide the basic services needed by detainees. It is expected that each agency will develop a set of supplementary standards that address the unique mission of each agency.

While a provision is made for waiving individual standards with proper documentation of the rationale for the waiver, it is recognized that application of these standards may result in the loss of some existing contracts.

It is believed, however, that the uniform application of these standards will ensure that federal detainees are treated equally and are housed in facilities that reflect well on all three agencies.

Enclosure