

STANDARD 4.4

PERSONAL HYGIENE

I. POLICY

Good hygiene is essential to the well-being of detainees in the custody of ICE/ERO. ICE/ERO requires that all facilities provide detainees with regular exchanges of suitable and clean clothing, linens, blankets, and towels for as long as they remain in detention.

II. STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

A. Clothing, Bedding, Linen, Blanket and Towel Supply

The facility shall have a policy and procedure for the regular issuance and exchange of clothing, bedding, linens, and towels. The facility shall keep a supply of these items that exceeds the minimum amount required for the number of detainees to prevent delay in replacing the items.

B. Issuance of Clothing

At no cost to the detainee, all new detainees shall be issued clean, indoor/outdoor, temperature-appropriate, presentable clothing during in-processing. Damaged or unusable shoes or clothing shall be replaced at no cost to the detainee.

The standard issue of clothing for detainees should be consistent with facility policy, but should include not less than one uniform shirt and one pair of uniform pants or one jumpsuit; one pair of socks; one pair of underwear; two brassieres, as appropriate; and one pair of footwear. Additional clothing shall be issued as necessary for changing weather conditions or as seasonally appropriate.

C. Issuance of Bedding, Linen and Towels

All new detainees shall be issued clean bedding, linens, and a towel(s). Detainees shall be held accountable for these items.

D. Special Uniforms and Protective Equipment for Detainees

Detainees assigned to special work areas shall be clothed in accordance with the requirements of the job and, when appropriate, provided with protective clothing and equipment in accordance with safety and security considerations.

E. Exchange Requirements

Detainees shall be provided with clean clothing, linens, and towels on a regular basis to ensure proper hygiene. Socks and undergarments will be exchanged daily, outer garments at least twice weekly and sheets, towels, and pillowcases at least weekly.

More frequent exchanges of outer garments may be appropriate, especially in hot and humid climates. Individual facilities may institute their own clothing, linen, and towel exchange policy and procedures, provided the standards in this policy are met.

F. Personal Hygiene Items

Distribution of hygiene items shall not be used as reward or punishment.

Each detainee shall receive, at a minimum, the following items:

1. One bar of bath soap, or equivalent;
2. One comb or equivalent;
3. One tube of toothpaste;
4. One toothbrush;
5. One bottle of shampoo, or equivalent; and
6. One container of skin lotion.

The facility administrator may modify this list as needed (e.g., to accommodate the use of bulk liquid soap and shampoo dispensers).

The distribution of razors shall be strictly controlled.

Female detainees shall be issued and may retain sufficient feminine hygiene items, including sanitary pads or tampons, for use during the menstrual cycle, and may be permitted brushes to replace combs.

The facility shall replenish personal hygiene items at no cost to the detainee on an as-needed basis, in accordance with written facility procedures.

G. Bathing and Toilet Facilities

Detainees shall be provided with a reasonably private bathing and toileting environment in accordance with safety and security needs. Detainees shall be able to shower, perform bodily functions, and change clothing without being viewed by staff of the opposite gender, except in exigent circumstances or when such viewing is incidental to routine cell checks

or is otherwise appropriate in connection with a medical examination or monitored bowel movement.

Staff of the opposite gender shall announce their presence when entering an area where detainees are likely to be showering, performing bodily functions, or changing clothing.

When operationally feasible, transgender and intersex detainees shall be given the opportunity to shower separately from other detainees.

Detainees with disabilities shall be provided the facilities and support needed for self-care and personal hygiene in a reasonably private environment in which the individual can maintain dignity. When necessary, assistance to detainees with disabilities who cannot perform basic life functions shall be provided by individuals who are trained and qualified to assist persons with physical and/or mental impairments. Such training may be provided by the health services authority and may involve the expertise of relevant community organizations and government agencies. Discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited.