

Department of Corrective Services Response to Recommendations

Recommendation	Response
1a. Develop a revised funeral policy that enables prisoners to attend funerals where there is a kinship or extended familial relationship, as well as when there is a direct family relationship.	<p>Supported in Principle The Department is currently in the process of reviewing its Permit for Absence Policy (PD9) and will take all issues raised, including resource implications, into consideration.</p>
1b. Develop a revised funeral policy that adheres to the Department’s Aboriginal Impact Statement and Guidelines for new policies.	<p>Supported in Principle The Department is currently in the process of reviewing its Permit for Absence Policy (PD9) and will take all issues raised, including resource implications, into consideration.</p>
1c. Develop a revised funeral policy that outlines the appeals process, how this is activated, and how the process is to be communicated to prisoners denied access to a funeral.	<p>Supported in Principle The Department is currently in the process of reviewing its Permit for Absence Policy (PD9) and will take all issues raised, including resource implications, into consideration.</p>
1d. Develop a revised funeral policy that outlines the process for constructive discussion with the applicant to occur at the onset of the funeral application process, with regard to alternative options if the prisoner be unable to physically attend.	<p>Supported in Principle The Department is currently in the process of reviewing its Permit for Absence Policy (PD9) and will take all issues raised, including resource implications, into consideration.</p>
2. Develop processes for accurately recording and monitoring the cost of funerals by prisoners and detainees.	<p>Supported The Department (Contracted Services) has implemented a process to accurately track the Serco (CS & CS) costs incurred when the contractor facilitates the funeral attendance by prisoners. The Department will develop systems for Adult Custodial and Youth Custodial.</p>
3. Use the Court Security and Custodial Services contract to develop an internal quoting method to determine whether a funeral application is within any established cost limits.	<p>Supported The Department (Contracted Services and Adult Custodial) will develop a process in parallel with amendments to PD9.</p>
4. Develop guidance on what evidence is required to demonstrate a prisoner’s relationship with the deceased to ensure each applicant is aware of these requirements when they begin the application process.	<p>Supported Refer to response for recommendation 1.</p>
5. Develop a committee, with Aboriginal representation, to assess appeals.	<p>Supported in part The Department will give this further consideration and particularly in light of the review of PD9.</p>
6. Notify all prisoners of the outcome of whether they can attend a funeral at least three days prior to the funeral, unless there are clearly documented exceptional circumstances.	<p>Supported in Principle The Department provides a decision at the soonest possible opportunity and where practical, within three days.</p>

7. Develop and implement more effective communication for staff, stakeholders and prisoners for changes to sensitive policies, such as the policy governing funeral attendance.

Supported

It is the Department's practice to broadly communicate any changes to policy.

8. Formalise existing good practice by amending the rules governing funeral attendance for young people in detention (or develop supporting guidelines).

Supported

A best practice model will be developed and supported by way of new policies and or guidelines.

9. Ensure that adequate staffing resources are in place to enable young people in detention to attend funerals.

Supported in Principle

The Department is reviewing all Youth Custodial resources.

10. Work with transport service providers to implement communication protocols which allow the service provider to make fully informed risk assessments regarding the need for restraints at funerals.

Supported

The Contractor's Operating Instructions (OI) 2.148 "Use of Force and Restraints" is currently under review to ensure compliance with Policy Directive 5 and other legislation/policies.