

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency For the District of Columbia

Office of Policy Analysis

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Management Number: 1000

Effective Date: 7/1/2019

Recertification Date:8/4/2023 Next Review Due Date:8/4/2025

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Richard Tischne Director

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Overview

Background

The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA or Agency), recognizes the need to issue policies in a uniform and timely manner. Policies need to be viewed as a living document, which are regularly reviewed, so they remain current and compliant with applicable laws, rules, and regulations, for the benefit of the workforce and the knowledge of the public.

This Policy Statement establishes standards for planning, developing, reviewing, and maintaining policies. The standards formalize a process in which policies are:

- Coordinated through the Office of Policy Analysis (OPA);
- Evaluated to prevent the issuance of duplicative or conflicting policy;
- Developed in a collaborative process that addresses all relevant stakeholders' input;
- Organized so that critical information is readily accessible and staff know how and where to find any related information; and
- Maintained to ensure future decision-makers have adequate information regarding the basis for previous policy determinations.

Summary of Changes

This updated policy implements:

- Removal of guidance disclaimer.
- Minor edits under Definitions: Phases of a Policy.

Coverage

This Policy Statement and referenced Operational Instruction apply to all CSOSA staff and is inclusive of those Policy Statements prepared for the joint signatures of the Director of CSOSA and the Director of Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA).

Authorities

- 5 U.S.C. § 301
- 5 U.S.C. § 552
- Office of Management and Budget's Final Bulletin for Agency Good Guidance Practices (72 FR 3422, Jan. 25, 2007)
- Section 11233(b)(2) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, Pub. Law 105-33, 111 Stat. 712
- D.C. Code § 24- 1233(b)(2)

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Overview, Continued

This Policy Statement recertifies the PS 1000 dated July 1, 2019 and is in effect until the next recertification date of 08/04/2025.

References

OI-OD-1000.1 Policy Management Operational Instruction

The Office of the Director, Office of Policy Analysis (OPA) is responsible for the contents of this Policy Statement.

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Policy

Policy

- Agency policies are issued in the form of Policy Statements.
- Policy Statements are prepared by Agency components and issued under the Director's signature.
- Policy statements are permanent policy; they remain active until rescinded, amended, or superseded.
- Changes to authorities, applicable laws, rules, and regulations are updated promptly and do not require the policy to go through the normal review process.
- Policy Statements are reviewed by all Agency Associate Directors or their designees.
- Policy Statements are prepared using a standard format.
- Policy Statements are developed and maintained using a 4-phase process that includes planning, development, review, and maintenance.
- Stakeholders have specific timeframes for each phase Policy Statements are reviewed and recertified biennially.

Waivers

The Director, or their designee, may waive or truncate the process to issue policies where good cause exists.

For example, it may be necessary to issue or update a policy or a procedure more rapidly than is possible within the formal policy management process presented in this Policy Statement. Congress may mandate changes within a specified period or allow changes that need to be implemented immediately.

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Definitions: Phases of a Policy

Phase 1: Planning

- The Component Policy Coordinator (CPC) submits a request for policy development or an existing policy update to OPA.
- An annual policy workplan is established to identify the Agency Director and component policy priorities and deliverables.

Phase 2: Development

- The CPC prepares the content for the initial draft policy and submits it to the policy analyst.
- The policy analyst prepares the initial draft policy.
- OPA assures Employee Labor Relations (ELR) involvement.
- OPA team completes a review of the initial draft policy.

Phase 3: Review

- The initial draft policy is submitted simultaneously to the Agency Associate Directors, then the Supervisory Policy Analyst, and the Office of the Director for review. If applicable, notice is provided to the Union.
- The Office of General Counsel (OGC) completes a legal sufficiency review during the second stakeholder review.
- ELR provides OPA clearance when it is appropriate to implement the policy.
- A final policy is submitted to the Director for review, signature, and implementation.

Phase 4: Maintenance

- The Office of Information Technology (OIT) posts the signed policies to the Agency's intranet.
- OPA maintains the central repository of all signed policies and associated working files.
- OPA initiates the biennial review and recertification of all posted policies.

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Roles and Responsibilities

Employee

Reads, seeks clarity and adheres to Agency policies and directives.

Supervisor

- Enforces policies and directives.
- Reviews new and existing policy updates with staff.

Component Policy Coordinator (CPC)

- Initiates new policy development or existing policy update.
- Prepares the content for an initial draft policy.
- Collaborates with OPA in reviewing and revising the initial draft policy.
- Maintains all records created during policy development.
- Establishes procedures to review the component's policies to ensure they remain current.

Office of Policy Analysis (OPA)

- Serves as the central point of contact for all policy initiatives.
- Prepares, reviews, and revises initial draft policies.
- Steers the review and approval of initial draft policies.
- Manages the filing and archiving of finalized Agency policies, including working files.
- Manages the biennial review and recertification of all Agency policies.
- Submits an annual report on the status of Agency policies to the Director by June 30th.

Employee Labor Relations (ELR)

- Determines if the proposed policy impacts the Union and provides the required notice.
- Serves as the central point of contact for all Union correspondence and engagement.

Office of General Counsel (OGC)

- Reviews the initial draft policy for legal sufficiency to ensure it is in compliance with applicable statutes, regulations, and procedures.
- Verifies that the initial draft policy cites the appropriate authorities.
- Reviews the final policy for legal sufficiency when there are substantive updates due to Union review or collective bargaining.
- Amends the CFR to reflect the new policy or existing policy update, when required by laws, regulations, or other mandates.

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Roles and Responsibilities, Continued

Office of Information Technology (OIT)

- Manages the SharePoint policy tracking tool.
- Posts signed policies.

Associate Directors (AD)

- Designate a CPC for the delegated component.
- Identify and communicate component priority policies, annually.
- Ensure policies routed for review and approval meet the established timeframes.

Office of the Director (OD)

- Approves policies governing the Agency.
- Waives all or specific steps in the policy review and approval process when good cause exists, except for reviews by OGC and ELR.