

 Corrections and Community Supervision DIRECTIVE	TITLE Membership in Racist/Terrorist Organizations		NO. 2002
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REFERENCES (Include but are not limited to)	APPROVING AUTHORITY 		

- I. **PURPOSE:** To set forth Department policy regarding membership in racist/terrorist organizations.
- II. **POLICY:** Membership in any racist/terrorist organization, such as the Ku Klux Klan, or any comparable organization, by any member of the Department is forbidden.

The Department emphatically denounces any racist/terrorist organization, since their aims and goals are totally inconsistent with the mission of the Department to improve public safety by providing a continuity of appropriate treatment services in safe and secure facilities where incarcerated individuals' needs are addressed and they are prepared for release, followed by supportive services as parolees under community supervision to facilitate a successful completion of their sentence.

The Department is fully cognizant of the First Amendment right of employees to freely associate. In addition, the Department acknowledges and protects the constitutional rights of incarcerated individuals and parolees under the Eighth Amendment and their statutory right under Correction Law to humane treatment. Evaluation of the delicate balance of these rights tilts in favor of the incarcerated individuals and parolees, since conditions of their confinement or supervision limit their ability to control their circumstances. The imbalance resulting from the presence of any racist/terrorist organization within the correctional and community supervision system warrants sufficient cause to ban employee membership in such an organization.

In an environment in which the majority of the incarcerated individuals and parolees are minority group members, not only does the presence of a racist/terrorist group disrupt a secure and humane environment, but even the possibility or hint of such activity establishes a tone which can cripple the effective operation of a correctional facility and also undermine the fair and effective supervision of a releasee in the community.

The Department will not tolerate any such threat to the productive administration, substantive programming, and appropriate security of its facilities or its community supervision operations.

The staff of this Department must stand in opposition to the principles and activities of any racist/terrorist organization.

Any employee who is a member of any racist/terrorist organization must disassociate from the organization immediately. Membership in any racist/terrorist organization by an employee of the Department will result in appropriate disciplinary action.