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Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

Subject: current policies for marriage and conjugal visit.

DOC should revisit the current policies that DOC follow that govern the marriage and conjugal visit procedure

(a) Marriage should remain the same way that it is governed by the state laws, if I am allowed to go to court and can change my prison attire to face the judge I should be able to have my family purchase a dress shirt that I can put on for my wedding ceremony, I should be able to cut a small wedding cake with my wife on that day, These policies were very active in the 80s-early 90s but for some reasons someone in the system decided to punish prisoners and just stop that ceremony.

(b) Conjugal visit was for all prisoners in Connecticut, but now the program of using the apartments/trailers has been phased out, because correctional employees don't want prisoners to have intimate relationship and sex.

I always say they want to change the system to be more rehabilitative and proactive why not start with inhouse policies and institutions practices, utilize the visiting room in a more social settings, more like a contact visit settings.

In my opinion Connecticut prisons don't have contact visit, if this is contact visit then something is wrong with me. Here it is, when our family came into the visiting area we were allowed for a quick in brace a kiss on the lips with an officer staring you down, when seated we are not allowed to hold hands just sit between a 2.5 feet table. That is not a way to be more connected to our loved ones, Connecticut prisons are the only one in the tri-states that don't have vending machine that family can have snack with loved ones.

Just recently California prison introduced (VR) virtual reality headset for prisoners to have more interaction with visitors and others rehabilitative programs you can check it out on their website and that prison is a max 6.