



FACT SHEET

SANCTION LADDER

2020

TIMOTHY C. WARD COMMISSIONER

RICKY MYRICK CHIEF OF STAFF

AHMED HOLT ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FACILITIES DIVISION



BACKGROUND

- Offenders who violate the Department of Corrections (DOC) Code of Conduct are subject to disciplinary sanctions
- Sanctions are categorized as Great, High, Moderate and Low

TYPES OF CHARGES

VIOLATION OF ANY LAW OF THE UNITED STATES OR GEORGIA

- Great severity

VIOLATION AGAINST PERSONS

- High – Great severity
- Violations against persons may include:
 - Causing injury or death to another
 - Assault/Fighting
 - Shooting, stabbing (or attempt)
 - Threatening words (spoken or written)/gestures
 - Sexual activity of any kind – including indecent exposure
 - Obstruction
 - Insubordination
 - Bribery

VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO THE SECURITY AND THE ORDERLY OPERATION OF THE PRISON

- High – Great severity
- Violations against security and orderly operations may include:
 - Unauthorized meetings
 - Planning or participation in disturbances/riots
 - Escape or aiding escape (or attempt)
 - Failure to follow instructions
 - Setting a fire
 - Being in any restricted area
 - Failure to complete work assignment
 - Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol
 - Obstruction during a search

VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION AND/OR UNAUTHORIZED EXCHANGE OF ITEMS, SUBSTANCES, ETC.

- Low – Great severity
- Violations against unauthorized possession/exchange of items may include:
 - Possession of any item deemed as contraband

VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO PROPERTY AND INVOLVING FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

- Moderate – High severity
- Violations against property and involving fraud may include:
 - Giving items to another offender
 - Theft
 - Destruction of state property
 - Lying

VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- Moderate – High severity
- Violations against policy and procedure may include:
 - Gambling
 - Violation of U.S. Postal regulations
 - Violation of visitation rules
 - Using cell phone
 - Feigning an injury or illness

VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO SAFETY, EQUIPMENT AND PHYSICAL PLANT

- Moderate – High severity
- Violations against safety, equipment and physical plant may include:
 - Failure to comply with safety policy
 - Careless operations of tools
 - Smoking

VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND SANITATION

- Low severity
- Violations against personal appearance and sanitation may include:
 - Failure to keep self clean
 - Failure to keep personal area clean
 - Failure to keep hair shaved/cut



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SANCTIONS

- Determined by the severity level of the violation
- Violation cannot receive a sanction intended for a higher severity level offense

GREAT SEVERITY OFFENSE SANCTIONS

- 1–30 days isolation
- Referral to Classification Committee for review
- Disciplinary transfer
- Removal from specific programs
- Issue warrant for violations of law
- Prison restrictions up to 90 days including:
 - Store
 - Library
 - Recreation
 - Group activities
 - Non-privileged packages
 - Telephone use
 - Impound personal property up to 90 days
 - Living Quarters
 - Visitation
- If offender is in a Transitional Center, these sanctions may also be used:
 - Removal from program
 - Assigned extra duty up to 90 days
 - Pass restriction/denial
 - Return to Phase I
 - Extend stay in Phase I
 - Community service
 - Increased drug and alcohol testing
 - Temporary return to prison up to 60 days
 - Assignment to extra duty
 - Mandatory assignment to program, counseling or training
 - Increased drug and/or alcohol testing
 - Removal of Media Rights (video visitation and/or electronic email)

HIGH SEVERITY OFFENSE SANCTIONS

- 1–14 days isolation
- Disciplinary transfer
- Removal from specific programs
- Issue warrant for violations of law
- Prison restrictions up to 60 days (see Great Severity Offense Sanctions for a list)
- Impound personal property up to 60 days
- Change in work assignment
- Extra duty – 2 hours per day up to 60 days
- Restitution
- If offender is in a Transitional Center, these sanctions may also be used:
 - See Great Severity Offense Sanctions for additional sanctions that may be used at a Transitional Center with a 60-day cap instead of a 90-day cap.
- Temporary return to prison up to 30 days
- Assignment to extra duty
- Mandatory assignment to program, counseling or training
- Increased drug and/or alcohol testing
- Removal of Media Rights (video visitation and/or electronic email)
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MODERATE SEVERITY OFFENSE SANCTIONS

- Removal from specific programs
- Issue warrant for violations of law
- Prison restrictions up to 30 days (see Great Severity Offense Sanctions for a list)
- Impound personal property up to 30 days
- Change in work assignment
- Extra duty – two hours per day up to 30 days
- If offender is in a Transitional Center, these sanctions may also be used:
 - Required counseling
 - Probated pass restriction/denial
 - Extra duty – up to 30 days
 - Civilian clothing restriction
 - Increase in reporting contacts
 - Verbal reprimand
 - Return to Phase I
 - Extend stay in Phase I
 - Community service

LOW SEVERITY OFFENSE SANCTIONS

- Includes all sanctions listed for Moderate Severity Offense Sanctions with 30 day limit on restrictions