

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)
OUTSIDE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EVALUATIONS BY VIDEO
In accordance with 103 DOC 650,
Mental Health Services**

Purpose:

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes guidelines outlining access to the Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video at Massachusetts Correctional Institutions, except for the Massachusetts Treatment Center and Bridgewater State Hospital. For purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure, the term “Evaluation” includes any of the services listed in 103 DOC 650.19 (C) or for services as per 103 DOC 650.19 (E). The Massachusetts Treatment Center and Bridgewater State Hospital have institution-specific procedures and nothing in this Standard Operating Procedure is intended to modify or otherwise change those procedures.

Section I: Request for Evaluation by Video

1. Outside Mental Health Professionals shall follow the procedure specified in 103 DOC 650.19, On-Site Evaluations by Outside Mental Health Professionals, including the completion of the Request to Perform Outside Mental Health Services Form (103 DOC 650, Attachment #13) and the Authorization to Release Sensitive Medical Information (103 DOC 607, *Inmate Medical Records*, Attachment #2). The Outside Mental Health Professional shall also provide a copy of a valid license to provide services consistent with the discipline in which the professional is trained to practice.
2. Outside Mental Health Professionals must request evaluation by Video as a special accommodation as specified in 650.19 (E), and this request must disclose why the evaluation must be done by Video as opposed to in-person at the correctional institution.
3. Where the nature of the service to be rendered is for any other reason than those cited in Section 650.19 (C), the Outside Mental Health Professional shall follow the procedure specified in 103 DOC 650.19 (F), and shall include the request for evaluation by Video as a special accommodation.
4. If the Superintendent authorizes the special accommodation for evaluation by Video, the Superintendent’s Office shall forward the authorization to the institution’s point of contact and backup point of contact for Video Visits. The Superintendent’s Office shall notify the Outside Mental Health Professional whether the requested special accommodation has been authorized or denied.

Section II: Scheduling and Procedures

1. Authorized Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video shall only be conducted via “Zoom”.

2. Each Department of Correction institution shall identify an institution point of contact (POC), and a backup POC, for Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video.
3. Each institution will identify a secure area for the Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video to occur.
4. Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video will generally be made available between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., subject to the operational needs of the institution, and subject to the scheduling of other video conferences which shall take precedence, such as court and administrative proceedings, and Attorney Video Visits.
5. At least one business day in advance of the requested Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluation by Video, the Outside Mental Health Professional shall send an email to the facility's email account listed in the attached Point of Contact spreadsheet requesting to schedule an Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluation by Video with an inmate.
6. The institution POC will retrieve the email and schedule all Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video.
7. It will be the responsibility of the Outside Mental Health Professional to set up the Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video Visit and to provide the institution POC with the Zoom Meeting ID Number and Password. If the Evaluation will be attended by a participant whose access is governed by 103 CMR 486, *Attorney Access at Massachusetts Correctional Institutions*, attorneys, paralegals, interpreters, and private investigators as are defined in this policy, the Outside Mental Health Professional shall disclose the names and titles of all participants. Only the Outside Mental Health Professional and participants specified in 103 CMR 486, *Attorney Access at Massachusetts Correctional Institutions* are allowed to participate in an Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluation by Video.
8. Fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluation by Video, the institutional POC will ensure that the pre-designated room and equipment is working and functional.
9. All Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video shall be scheduled in one-hour blocks. Additional Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video may be requested but will be scheduled based on the operational needs of the institution or requests from others for such visits.

Section III: Security Procedures

1. All Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video will be monitored by security staff, in the same manner as contact attorney visits/attorney video visits.

2. Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video may not be recorded by the Outside Mental Health Professional or any other participant. Screen shots may not be taken by the Outside Mental Health Professional or any other participant.
3. Prior to the inmate entering the secure area, a clothed pat search shall be conducted by the officer monitoring the Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video.
4. The institution POC will establish video contact with the inmate and mental health professional. Once contact is established, the keyboard and wireless mouse will be removed from the secure room. The computer monitor and desk top computer are the only pieces of equipment that will remain in the room. At no time will the inmate be allowed to have access to the keyboard or mouse.
5. The equipment must be positioned in the secure area in such a manner as to allow the officer monitoring the Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video a clear line of sight to the inmate and the mental health professional on the monitor.
6. Officers shall position themselves in such a manner that they maintain visual observation of the inmate and the mental health professional on the monitor. If more than one video visit of any kind is occurring simultaneously, assigned officer coverage shall be appropriate to ensure that the monitoring requirements of this SOP are met.
7. Inmate and mental health professional privacy will be the same as if it were a contact visit. The door will remain closed, and correctional staff must maintain visual observation of the inmate and mental health professional on the monitor. Staff must remain vigilant in their observation skills during this process.
8. At the conclusion of the Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video Visit, the inmate will be processed in the same manner as if it were a contact visit. Staff will conduct an unclothed search and the inmate will be returned to their unit.

POC – Outside Mental Health Professional Evaluations by Video

Facility	Delegation	Email Account	Primary Contact	Secondary Contact	Superintendent
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