



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Office of the Director

Washington, DC 20534

January 16, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDGES

FROM:

*Kathleen Hawk Sawyer*  
Kathleen Hawk Sawyer

Director

SUBJECT:

Community Confinement Procedure Changes

This memorandum informs you that the Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) recently implemented procedure changes regarding inmate designations to community correction centers (CCC) (also known as "halfway-houses") which affect D.C. Code felony offenders in Bureau custody.

The Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel recently determined the Bureau lacks general statutory authority to designate inmates to CCCs to serve terms of imprisonment. Instead, the Bureau's only CCC designation authority exists pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3624(c), which limits such placements to pre-release programming during the last 10% of the prison sentence being served, not to exceed six months. The Bureau was instructed to immediately implement this revised interpretation.

This revised interpretation applies to D.C. Code felony offenders sentenced to terms of imprisonment insofar as D.C. Code §§ 24-101(a) & (b) instruct that D.C. Code felony offenders in Bureau custody are "subject to any law or regulation applicable to persons committed for violations of laws of the United States consistent with the sentence imposed." As a result, D.C. Code felony offenders sentenced to terms of imprisonment will not be directly designated to CCCs, even if judicially recommended, and may receive pre-release CCC placement only during the last 10% of the prison time being served, not to exceed six months, pursuant to § 3624(c).

cc: Director, Court Services  
and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA)