

**LOCAL LAWS  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
FOR THE YEAR 2015**

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**No. 91**

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Introduced by Council Members Crowley, Dromm, Chin, Cumbo, Espinal, Lander, Mendez, Menchaca, Rosenthal, Williams, Barron, Garodnick, Eugene, Kallos and Wills.

**A LOCAL LAW**

**To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the creation of an inmate bill of rights.**

*Be it enacted by the Council as follows:*

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 9 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 9-139 to read as follows:

*§ 9-139 Inmate bill of rights. a. The department shall inform every inmate upon admission to the custody of the department, in writing, using plain and simple language, of their rights under department policy, which shall be consistent with federal, state, and local laws, and board of correction minimum standards, on the following topics: non-discriminatory treatment, personal hygiene, recreation, religion, attorney visits, access to legal reference materials, visitation, telephone calls and other correspondence, media access, due process in any disciplinary proceedings, health services, safety from violence, and the grievance system.*

*b. The department shall inform every inmate upon admission to the custody of the department, in writing, using plain and simple language, of their responsibilities under the department's rules governing inmate conduct.*

*c. The department shall inform every inmate upon admission to the custody of the department, in writing, using plain and simple language, of available services relating to*

*education, vocational development, drug and alcohol treatment and counseling, and mental health treatment and counseling services.*

*d. The department shall publish on its website any documents created pursuant to this section. Such documents shall be available in English and Spanish.*

*e. Within 24 hours of admission to the custody of the department, the department shall provide to each inmate an oral summary of the rights and responsibilities enumerated in subdivisions a, b, and c of this section in the inmate's preferred language, if the language is accessible through the city's language access plan. The department shall make a good faith effort to provide an oral summary in languages that are not accessible through the city's language access plan as soon as practicable.*

*f. Upon admission to the custody of the department, each inmate shall also be offered the option of being provided the Connections guidebook for formerly incarcerated people, or any similar or successor book or handbook that describes resources available to those re-entering society after being incarcerated.*

§ 2. This local law takes effect 90 days after it becomes law.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, s.s.:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a local law of The City of New York, passed by the Council on September 17, 2015 and approved by the Mayor on October 7, 2015.

MICHAEL M. McSWEENEY, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council.

CERTIFICATION OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

I hereby certify that the form of the enclosed local law (Local Law No. 91 of 2015, Council Int. No. 784-A of 2015) to be filed with the Secretary of State contains the correct text of the local law passed by the New York City Council and approved by the Mayor.

STEPHEN LOUIS, Acting Corporation Counsel.