

Media Release

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Dawn-Renee Smith, Communications Director
402-479-5713; dawnrenee.smith@nebraska.gov

Implementation of Sentence Automation Software Announced

Sentence Calculation Moves from 360 Day Year to Calendar Year

LINCOLN, Neb. – Today, Director Scott R. Frakes announced the implementation of sentence automation software. Frakes initiated the sentence automation last year to ensure mandatory minimums could be applied properly after the previous administration miscalculated hundreds of sentences. The implementation automates the calculation of inmate sentences, moves the calculation to a calendar year and moves sentence calculation from a mainframe system to a modern, web-based infrastructure.

In addition to automating the process, it also moves the calculations from a 30-day month (360 days per year) to a calendar year (365 days per year), which ensures greater accuracy. A tracking mechanism for changes made to sentences over time is now in place. The LB 191 enhanced good time credit calculation reforms were completed in November 2015.

“Automating the calculation process utilizes new technology to improve efficiency and accuracy, ensuring each individual completes his/her sentence as directed by the court,” said Director Frakes. “Eliminating the need for manual calculations is significant to this agency as we operate ten prisons, execute our mission of ‘keep people safe,’ and spearhead reform initiatives on multiple fronts.”

Based on the change from a 360 day calendar to a calendar year system, inmates may see a slight variance in tentative release dates (TRD) and/or parole eligibility dates (PED). The changes will go into effect on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Inmates whose release dates are between September 24 – 30, 2016, will receive notice if their TRD has changed.

After the September 24 automation, the next step will be to automate the process of combining consecutive and concurrent sentences from multiple offenses and/or cases. Until that function is automated, records management staff will continue to interpret the sentencing order to determine the aggregate sentence when there are multiple charges and/or multiple cases.

Under Director Frakes’ leadership, NDCS has undertaken a number of initiatives to transform the culture of the agency and restore public trust. Included in those initiatives are the commission of a culture study, implementation of security audits at all facilities, development of rules and regulations to reduce the use of restrictive housing, completion of a staffing analysis that resulted in a request of 164 additional staff, creation of an agency-wide intelligence unit, a shift sergeant pilot program, partnership with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF), construction of a 100-bed temporary housing unit and a 160-bed female community custody addition, as well as increased transparency efforts.

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