



Policy Directive 9 Permits for Absence

- Relevant Instruments:** [Criminal Law \(Mentally Impaired Accused\) Act 1996](#)
- [Prisons Act 1981](#)
- [Prisons Regulations 1982](#)
- [Adult Custodial Rule 18 – Assessments and Sentence Management](#)
- [Policy Directive 10 – Child Residency and Extended Visits with Children](#)
- [Policy Directive 32 – Prisoners At Risk of Self Harm](#)
- [Policy Directive 66 - Re-Integration Leave \(RIL\)](#)
- [Policy Directive 68 - Prisoner Employment Program \(PEP\)](#)
- [Policy Directive 82 – Prisoner Movements](#)
- [Sentence Management Manual](#)

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1. Purpose

Prisoners may be permitted to be absent from prison for the purposes of rehabilitation, reintegration, attending medical or health appointments, furthering the interest of justice and meeting the compassionate needs of prisoners to attend family and culturally significant events. This policy provides a consistent assessment and approval process for each absence permit purpose.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all public and private prisons.

3. Definitions

absence permit The document authorising a prisoner to be absent from a prison. A prisoner with a valid absence permit shall be deemed to be in lawful custody while absent as authorised by the permit.

4. Policy

That the assessment of and decisions about a prisoner's absence from prison reflect modern correctional practices and standards and meet the objectives of the absence permit legislation. The assessment of a prisoner's absence from prison will ensure that protection of both the community and staff managing those prisoners are paramount considerations.

5. Supporting appendices

[Policy Directive 9 – Permits for Absence – Procedures](#)

6. Policy review

This policy is to be reviewed on a biennial basis. Appendices to this policy may be amended by the Deputy Commissioner Adult Justice Services as necessary to reflect changes to prison procedures.

7. Approval

Commissioner

Signature:



Date:

7 January 2015

8. Policy sponsor

Assistant Commissioner Re-Entry and Services

9. Contact person

The following persons may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy:

Superintendent Administration

Manager Release Planning

Principal Operational Policy Officer

10. Amendment history

	Version	Approved	Effective from
1.	First published	14 May 2001	14 May 2001
2.	Policy amended	3 April 2007	4 April 2007
3.	Policy amended	11 September 2007	20 September 2007
4.	'Relevant Instruments' amended	13 August 2012	13 August 2012
5.	Policy amended and Appendix added	28 August 2012	4 September 2012
6.	Policy amended - title change from Dept Commissioner Offender Services and Professional Development to Assistant Commissioner Custodial Services	20 November 2012	6 December 2012
7.	Policy amended	14 October 2013	25 October 2013
8.	Policy amended - inc. process for absence for external activities moved to Policy Directive 53 - External Activities. Policy and Procedures separated.	7 January 2015	20 February 2015