



AMERICAN **CORRECTIONS** IN BRIEF

A graphic of a single strand of barbed wire with several sharp points, looping around the word 'CORRECTIONS'.Two horizontal strands of barbed wire with sharp points, spanning the width of the cover.

SECOND EDITION

TODD R. **CLEAR**

GEORGE F. **COLE**

MICHAEL D. **REISIG**

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AMERICAN CORRECTIONS IN BRIEF

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PREFACE

This is the second edition of *American Corrections in Brief*. We wrote the first edition of this text in order to offer faculty who have used *American Corrections*, now in its tenth edition, a briefer, more applied corrections text that lives up to the authors' rigorous standards for scholarship and state-of-the-art coverage. This text is designed to thoroughly introduce students to the dynamics of the correctional system without overwhelming them, in a format that students will find exciting and that will encourage them to achieve at a higher level.

We developed the first edition of *American Corrections in Brief* to be not simply an abridged version of *American Corrections* but to be a whole new book. This second edition strengthens what teachers found most useful in the first edition and reorganizes some of the material to provide more complete topical coverage of the field of corrections. In particular, readers will notice that we have added a dedicated chapter on juvenile corrections (Chapter 12), which not only expands treatment of juvenile offenders but also enables us to go into much more depth on other "special" populations in Chapter 9, "Special Populations." We simplified the chapters on prisons, enabling us to cover more material in fewer chapters. And we have reordered the chapters to offer a more logical treatment of the field. The result is, we think, an *American Corrections in Brief* that offers exceptional coverage of the field in a format that is accessible, applied, and richly informed by scholars, reviewers, and adopters like yourself.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT

American Corrections in Brief introduces students to the subject of corrections in just thirteen chapters—fewer than any other textbook available for the course—and features a special emphasis on applying theory and research to the real world of correctional practice. To enhance student orientation to this real-world focus, we have developed special elements that "tell it like it is." These elements will assist students as they become informed citizens and especially if they consider corrections as a career. Students will also find the Careers in Corrections boxes informative because these features describe such essentials as the nature of the job, requirements for entry, earnings, and future outlook.

Throughout the book, examples from today's headlines are used to link the concepts and information to actual correctional situations relevant to today's students and tomorrow's practitioners. What's more, we have labored to produce a text that is truly reflective of today's correctional environment. As most of us are aware, the downturn in the economy has placed great fiscal burdens on public agencies. At all levels of government—federal, state, and local—budgetary deficits have had a great impact on corrections. And while corrections has little control over the number of offenders sent to community corrections, jails, and prisons, correctional budgets are not immune from cuts imposed by fiscally strapped governments. As a result of cutbacks, some correctional systems have had to release prisoners, reduce or eliminate rehabilitative programs, expand community supervision caseloads, lay off staff, and take many similar actions to reduce expenses. Critical-thinking exercises and discussion questions found throughout the book raise the types of dilemmas that future correctional leaders will face.

In today's world, correctional professionals are increasingly focusing their attention on research by scholars who have demonstrated the shortcomings of correctional practices and have urged alternatives. In this book, we thus not only examine the history

of corrections and the exciting changes that have occurred to make the field what it is today, but we also look to the future of corrections by appraising research-based solutions to current issues.

In *American Corrections in Brief* we offer an accurate analysis of contemporary corrections that is based on up-to-date research and reflects current weaknesses in the system. By acknowledging the system's problems, we hope that our exposition will inspire suggestions for change. We believe that when human freedom is at stake, policies must reflect research and be formulated only after their potential effects have been carefully considered. In other words, we hope that any changes we inspire will be good ones. We also hope that a new generation of students will gain a solid understanding of all the aspects of their complex field.

In learning about corrections, students gain a unique understanding of how social and political forces affect the way that organizations and institutions respond to a particular segment of the community. They learn that social values come to the fore in the correctional arena because the criminal sanction reflects those values. They also learn that in a democracy, corrections must operate not only within the framework of law but also within the boundaries set by public opinion. Thus, as a public activity corrections is accountable to elected representatives, but it must also compete politically with other agencies for resources and "turf."

Two key assumptions run throughout the book. One is about the nature of corrections as a discipline; the other concerns the best way to analyze correctional practices:

- **Corrections is interdisciplinary.** The academic fields of criminal justice, sociology, psychology, history, law, and political science contribute to our understanding of corrections. This cross-fertilization is enriching, yet it requires familiarity with a vast literature. We have structured our text with a strong focus on coherence to make this interdisciplinary approach comprehensive yet accessible.
- **Corrections is a system.** In our book the system concept serves as a framework for analyzing the relationships among the various parts of corrections and the interactions between correctional professionals and offenders. The main advantage of this perspective is that it allows for dispassionate analysis of correctional practices. It also makes students aware that corrections is a dynamic, changing system where discretion by administrators and officers influences the lives of those under supervision.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXT

Correctional officials and political leaders are continually asking, "Where is corrections headed?" Does the future hold that American corrections will continue to lead the developed world in numbers incarcerated? Might there be a return to the rehabilitation emphasis of the past? Will there be further calls to privatize corrections? In *American Corrections in Brief* we explore these and other issues in four major sections: the correctional context, corrections in the community, institutional corrections, and correctional issues.

In Part I, "The Correctional Context," we describe societal issues that frame our contemporary experience of corrections. We examine the general social context of the correctional system and the history of American corrections (Chapter 1). The purpose of punishment, forms of the criminal sanction, and the sentencing process are examined in Chapter 2. Part I thus presents the foundations of American corrections—context, history, goals, organizations, and offenders—and does so in vastly fewer pages than most texts, which leaves us with more time to spend on institutional and community corrections as well as the complex emerging issues and challenges that characterize the correctional system in the twenty-first century.

In Part II, "Corrections in the Community," we look at the current state of correctional practices at the local level. It is in the community where most offenders are supervised. Jails and other short-term facilities are scrutinized in Chapter 3, probation

and intermediate sanctions, by which most offenders are handled, in Chapter 4, and community supervision practices in Chapter 5.

Because imprisonment remains the core symbolic and punitive mechanism of institutional corrections, Part III, “Institutional Corrections,” examines it in detail. We discuss prisons at the state and federal level (Chapter 6), the prison experience (Chapter 7), and prison management (Chapter 8). Chapter 9 is devoted to the dilemma of meeting the needs of the various groups of people managed within the correctional context. Taken together, Parts II and III offer a succinct yet comprehensive introduction to the development, structure, and methods of each area of the existing correctional system, portraying them in light of the continuing issues described in Part I of the text.

Part IV, “Correctional Issues,” is unique to this text in that we examine a number of cutting-edge issues and trends that are at the forefront of correctional discussions. These issues have been chosen because of their currency and focus. They present dilemmas for correctional researchers and administrators who are trying to deal with problems that are new to the system. Chapter 10 describes the great expansion of the number of incarcerated offenders reentering the community. Chapter 11 deals with legal issues surrounding prisoners’ rights as well as the law with regard to the death penalty. Chapter 12 offers an expanded treatment of juveniles. In Chapter 13, “The Future of Corrections,” we take both a retrospective view of American corrections and a view toward its future. These chapters are designed to raise questions in the minds of readers so that they can begin to grapple with important issues.

WHAT’S NEW IN THE SECOND EDITION

We have made a number of changes and improvements in this edition. Throughout the book, we have updated all the figures with the most recent data available. This means that you will see the newest trends, some of which are quite recent. For example, we give extended discussion to the recent drop in the number of people in the correctional system, describing the implications for correctional policy and practice. This change is quite recent.

In order to provide additional currency, we have replaced most of the chapter opening vignettes, focusing on new stories that highlight current issues. Our revision gives expanded coverage to timely, pressing topics such as private prisons, women in prison, and developments in community corrections. This additional material strengthens coverage in the new edition.

Most important, we have done extensive reorganizational work. As noted, we have added a chapter on juvenile corrections, now Chapter 12. This has enabled us to expand greatly on juvenile issues covered formerly while also expanding our discussion of special correctional populations in the revised Chapter 9. To make room for this additional material, we updated information on prison management and prison staff, and then consolidated this information into a new single Chapter 8.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Several features make this book an especially interesting introduction to corrections:

- **Opening vignettes:** Each chapter opens with a description of a high-profile correctional case. Taken from today’s headlines, each vignette dramatizes a real-life situation that draws the student into the chapter’s topic. Instructors will find these “lecture launchers” an important pedagogical tool to stimulate interest. For example, Chapter 10, “Reentry into the Community,” describes the release of NFL quarterback Michael Vick from the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, to community supervision and contrasts his situation to that of most offenders returning to society.
- **Focus boxes:** In this feature the real-world relevance of the issues discussed in the text is made clear by vivid, in-depth accounts by correctional workers, journalists, prisoners, parolees, and the relatives of those who are in the system.

American Corrections in Brief includes three types of Focus boxes: Correctional Technology, Correctional Policy, and Correctional Practice. Each box provides an example of the focus and presents critical-thinking questions for analysis and discussion. Focus on Correctional Technology presents examples of the use of contemporary technologies such as the use of “telemedicine” in prisons found in Chapter 7. Focus on Correctional Policy in Chapter 5 examines policies to meet current challenges such as dealing with drug offenders. Focus on Correctional Practice describes contemporary practices such as the experience of a young offender’s experience in jail (Chapter 3). We believe that students will find that the material in each Focus box enhances their understanding of the chapter topic. Instructors will find that the Focus boxes will provoke class discussion that will enhance the text.

- **Myths in Corrections boxes:** This feature contrasts popular beliefs about corrections with the reality as presented by research findings. In Chapter 11 the myth that offenders are no longer put to death by hanging or firing squad is contrasted with Utah’s use of a firing squad to execute Ronnie Lee Gardner in 2010.
- **Careers in Corrections boxes:** In appropriate chapters, students will find one or more boxes in which a particular occupation is described. The material includes the nature of the work, required qualifications, earnings, and job outlook, plus a source for further information.
- **Do the Right Thing boxes:** Correctional workers are often confronted with ethical dilemmas. In these boxes we present a scenario in which an ethical question arises. We then ask students to examine the issues and consider how they would act in such a situation. The scenarios have been developed to encourage students to grapple with the “right thing” and to provide the basis of a writing assignment.
- **Checkpoints:** In keeping with our focus on students and their mastery of the text’s concepts, we have included self-assessments in the body of each chapter. As they proceed through each chapter, students will periodically find brief quizzes so they can test their understanding of the material before moving on to the next important topic. Answers to the questions are found at the end of each chapter.
- **Glossary:** One goal of an introductory course is to familiarize students with the terminology of the field. We have avoided jargon in the text but include terms that are commonly used in the field. Such indispensable words and phrases are set in bold type, and the term and its definition have been placed in the margin. A full glossary with definitions of all terms is located at the back of the book.
- **Graphics:** We have created tables and figures that clarify and enliven information so that it can be perceived easily and grasped accurately.
- **Photographs:** *American Corrections in Brief* contains a complete program of dynamic photographs spread throughout the book. These reveal many aspects of corrections ordinarily concealed from the public eye. The photographs provide students with a real-world view of correctional policies and practices.
- **Integrated Learning Objectives and other student aids:** At the beginning of each chapter is an outline of the topics to be covered, followed by the learning objectives mentioned above. These tools are designed to guide students as they progress through the chapter. Within each chapter are URLs that refer students to interesting websites where they can learn more about the topics discussed. At the end of each chapter, students will find a summary (again, keyed to the learning objectives) as well as discussion questions, checkpoint answers, and a list of key terms.

CORRECTIONS: A DYNAMIC FIELD

As textbook authors, we have a responsibility to present current data, provide coverage of new issues, and describe innovative policies and programs. As noted above, we have been assisted by the comments of an exceptionally knowledgeable team of reviewers

who suggested current issues that they wanted to discuss in their classrooms. Among these topics are the following:

- **The death penalty:** The introduction in the 1970s of lethal injection as an execution method has resulted in a flurry of court cases challenging this approach as a violation of the cruel and unusual punishment clause of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. In 2008 this claim was examined by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in *Baze v. Rees* that attorneys for the death row inmates had not proven that lethal injection was in conflict with the amendment. However, the last word on this issue seems not to have been spoken as botched executions continue to command headlines and new cases enter the judicial system. Other issues surrounding the death penalty such as the effectiveness of counsel, execution of the insane, and execution for child rape are examined in Chapter 11. Because an ever-increasing number of death row inmates are being released when new evidence shows that they were erroneously convicted, the use of the death penalty will continue to be a major source of debate among legislators, scholars, and correctional officials.
- **Incarceration trends:** Although rates of violent crime have dropped to 1970 levels, the incarceration rate remains high. This increase in the prison and jail populations conflicts with the budgetary crisis facing state and local governments. In many states the correctional system is under pressure to reduce the number of prisoners to meet budgetary limits. In other states overcrowding has led to demands by the judiciary that prison populations be reduced. The early release of prisoners has raised security issues among many residents. This issue has a direct impact on supervision at a time when caseloads are high and parole budgets are stretched.
- **Reentry:** Each year approximately 700,000 offenders are released from prison and returned to their communities. Disturbingly, in some states recidivists make up the largest group of new admissions to prison. In response, assisting felons in the reentry process has become a major focus of correctional policy. The problems encountered by parolees as they adjust to the community are dealt with extensively in Chapter 10.
- **Management of prison staff:** The introduction of women as correctional officers in prisons for males and the increased staffing of males in prisons for women have created problems in the workplace. Initially, questions were raised about the effectiveness of women as correctional officers, but in recent years charges of sexual abuse by male officers have also created problems for prison administrators.
- **Evidence-based practice:** There has been a growing movement for “evidence-based” practice in dealing with those under community supervision—probation or parole. Public statements by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and the development of programs within the U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Justice Programs have spurred this thrust. Probation and parole officers are encouraged to make decisions based on methods that have been shown to be effective by well-designed research methods.
- **Correctional law:** Beginning in the 1970s, the U.S. Supreme Court started developing an extensive case law designed to uphold the rights of probationers, prisoners, and parolees. Many of these decisions were in response to the prisoners’ rights movement, which directed attention to the conditions of confinement in many penal institutions. Although the Court has not been as active in developing new laws during the past decade, prisoners continue to bring cases that challenge aspects of their incarceration.
- **Incarceration of women:** As the number of female prisoners has increased, so too has research on the impact of maternal incarceration on children. Administrators in a number of states have devised programs to provide opportunities for women to maintain contact with their children.

- **Private prisons:** Since the advent of private prisons in the 1970s, questions have been raised about whether they are more cost-effective than public prisons. Until recently, research on this question has been lacking. As states deal with severe budgetary problems, the future of private prisons is uncertain.
- **The prison experience:** Prison gangs have been a major problem in some correctional systems for some time. Different strategies have been developed to deal with these gangs. Prison rape is also an issue that has brought a national spotlight on inmate safety. New evidence provides national estimates on the prevalence of sexual violence in prisons and how correctional officials handle victimization reports.
- **Technology in corrections:** The introduction of the newest technological devices and systems is having a major impact on corrections. For example, from the 1980s, when the first tracking devices were attached to probationers, to today's use of global positioning systems, to telemedicine in prisons, corrections has been at the forefront in the use of technology. The impact of technology on corrections is only now being measured as seen by the results of research in many states. As "evidenced-based decision making" becomes a high priority of correctional administrators, the use of the latest technology is bound to greatly influence future policies and practices.

ANCILLARY MATERIALS

Cengage Learning provides a number of supplements to help instructors use *American Corrections in Brief* in their courses and to aid students in preparing for exams. Supplements are available to qualified adopters. Please consult your local Cengage Learning sales representative for details.

To access additional course materials, including CourseMate, please visit www.cengagebrain.com. At the CengageBrain.com home page, search for the ISBN of your title (from the back cover of your book) using the search box at the top of the page. This will take you to the product page where these resources can be found.

For the Instructor

INSTRUCTOR'S RESOURCE MANUAL WITH TEST BANK The manual, revised by Keith Bell of West Liberty University, includes learning objectives, key terms, a detailed chapter outline, a chapter summary, lesson plans, discussion topics, student activities, "what if" scenarios, media tools, a sample syllabus, and an expanded test bank. The learning objectives are correlated with the discussion topics, student activities, and media tools.

Each chapter of the test bank, updated by Sara Morrell of the Minnesota School of Business, contains questions in multiple-choice, true/false, completion, essay, and (new to this edition) critical-thinking formats, with a full answer key. The test bank is coded to the learning objectives that appear in the main text, references to the section in the main text where the answers can be found, and (new to this edition) Bloom's taxonomy. Finally, each question in the test bank has been carefully reviewed by experienced criminal justice instructors for quality, accuracy, and content coverage. Our Instructor Approved seal, which appears on the front cover, is our assurance that you are working with an assessment and grading resource of the highest caliber. The manual is available for download on the password-protected website and can also be obtained by e-mailing your local Cengage Learning representative.

CENGAGE LEARNING TESTING POWERED BY COGNERO This assessment software is a flexible, online system that allows you to import, edit, and manipulate test bank

content from the *American Corrections in Brief* test bank or elsewhere, including your own favorite test questions; create multiple test versions in an instant; and deliver tests from your LMS, your classroom, or wherever you want.

ONLINE POWERPOINT® LECTURES Helping you make your lectures more engaging while effectively reaching your visually oriented students, these handy Microsoft PowerPoint® slides outline the chapters of the main text in a classroom-ready presentation. Revised by Marcy Hehnlly of Chattahoochee Technical College, the PowerPoint® slides are updated to reflect the content and organization of the new edition of the text and feature some additional examples and real-world cases for application and discussion. Available for download on the password-protected instructor book companion website, the presentations and can also be obtained by e-mailing your local Cengage Learning representative.

CENGAGE LEARNING VIDEO PROGRAM (COURTESY BBC, CNN, AND MORE) CNN videos feature short, high-interest clips from current news events as well as historic raw footage going back 30 years. CBS and BBC clips feature footage from nightly news broadcasts and specials to *CBS News Special Reports*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *60 Minutes*, and more. Taken together, the brief videos offer the perfect discussion-starters for your classes, enriching lectures and providing students with a new lens through which to view the past and present, one that will greatly enhance their knowledge and understanding of significant events and open up to them new dimensions in learning.

For the Student

COURSEMATE COMPANION WEBSITE CourseMate brings course concepts to life with interactive learning, study, and exam-preparation tools that support the printed textbook. Each chapter opens with a brief, learning-objective-based pre-test that students can use to quiz themselves in advance of reading the assignment and identify those chapter outcomes that may be especially challenging for them personally. CourseMate also includes an integrated eBook, post-reading quizzes that are also mapped to chapter learning objectives, flash cards, videos, and EngagementTracker, a first-of-its-kind tool that monitors student engagement in the course. The accompanying instructor website offers access to password-protected resources such as an electronic version of the *Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Bank* and PowerPoint® slides.

CAREERS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE WEBSITE Available bundled with this text at no additional charge. The interactive Careers in Criminal Justice website features plenty of self-exploration and profiling activities. It helps students investigate and focus on the criminal justice career choices that are right for them. Includes interest assessment, video testimonials from career professionals, résumé and interview tips, and links for reference.

CURRENT PERSPECTIVES Readings from InfoTrac® College Edition. These readers, designed to give students a closer look at special topics in criminal justice, include free access to InfoTrac College Edition. The timely articles are selected by experts in each topic. They are available free when bundled with the text and include the following titles:

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- Ethics in Criminal Justice
- Forensics and Criminal Investigation
- Corrections
- Law and Courts
- Policy in Criminal Justice

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ours has been a collective effort in which drafts of each chapter were reviewed by at least one other author, revised, and then set out to review by a group of criminal justice faculty who teach at a range of colleges and universities. These reviewers were enthusiastic about the project and gave us helpful advice on the text's organization and content. We hope that this book reflects our enthusiasm for our field and the satisfaction we have found in it.

In writing *American Corrections in Brief* we were greatly assisted by people who merit special recognition. Criminal justice instructors who reviewed the first edition of the text were most helpful in pointing out its strengths and weaknesses; we took their comments seriously and hope that readers will find their educational needs met more fully. We gratefully acknowledge the valuable contributions of the following reviewers:

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BRIEF CONTENTS

Preface xix

PART ONE THE CORRECTIONAL CONTEXT 1

Chapter **01** What Is Corrections? / 2

Chapter **02** The Punishment of Offenders / 30

PART TWO CORRECTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY 57

Chapter **03** Jails: Corrections at the Local Level / 58

Chapter **04** Community Corrections: Probation
and Intermediate Sanctions / 88

Chapter **05** Probation Supervision / 114

PART THREE INSTITUTIONAL CORRECTIONS 141

Chapter **06** Prisons / 142

Chapter **07** The Prison Experience / 168

Chapter **08** Prison Management / 196

Chapter **09** Special Populations / 224

PART FOUR CORRECTIONAL ISSUES 245

Chapter **10** Reentry into the Community / 246

Chapter **11** Legal Issues and the Death Penalty / 276

Chapter **12** Corrections for Juveniles / 306

Chapter **13** The Future of Corrections / 334

Glossary 357

Index 363

CONTENTS

Preface xix



PART ONE THE CORRECTIONAL CONTEXT 1

CHAPTER 01 WHAT IS CORRECTIONS? / 2

American Corrections Today 4

MYTHS IN CORRECTIONS High U.S. Crime Rates 6

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL POLICY

The Great Experiment in Social Control 7

The Purpose of Corrections 8

A Systems Framework for Studying Corrections 9

Goals 10

Interconnectedness 10

Environment 11

Feedback 12

Complexity 12

The Corrections System Today 12

The History of Corrections in America 15

The Colonial Period 15

The Arrival of the Penitentiary 16

The Reformatory Movement 19

Corrections in the Twentieth Century 20



Do the Right Thing 24

Where Are We Today? 25

The Correctional Challenge 25

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE

California and Texas Lead the New Conversation
About Imprisonment 26

Summary 27

CHAPTER **02** THE PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS / 30**Punishment from the Middle Ages to the American Revolution 32**

- The Age of Reason and Correctional Reform 33
- Cesare Beccaria and the Classical School 34
- Jeremy Bentham and the "Hedonic Calculus" 34
- European Influences on Punishment in America 35

The Purpose of Corrections 35

- Retribution (Deserved Punishment) 36
- Deterrence 36
- Incapacitation 37
- Rehabilitation 37
- New Approaches to Punishment 38
- Criminal Sanctions: A Mixed Bag? 39

Forms of the Criminal Sanction 40

- Incarceration 40

MYTHS IN CORRECTIONS Three Strikes and You're Out 41

- Intermediate Sanctions 43
- Probation 44
- Death 44
- Forms and Goals of Sanctions 45

The Sentencing Process 47

- The Attitudes of the Judge 47

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE

- A Trial Judge at Work:
Judge Robert Satter 48

- The Administrative Context 49
- The Presentence Report 49
- Sentencing Guidelines 49



- Do the Right Thing 50

Unjust Punishment 50

- Sentencing Disparity 51
- Wrongful Conviction 52

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL POLICY

- Politics and Sentencing: The Case of Crack
Cocaine 53

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

- DNA Testing of Evidence 54

Summary 54



PART TWO **CORRECTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY** 57

CHAPTER **03** JAILS: CORRECTIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL / 58

The Contemporary Jail: Entrance to the System 60

- Origins and Evolution 61
- Population Characteristics 61
- Administration 62

CAREERS IN CORRECTIONS Correctional Officer—Local Jails 64

- Regional Jails 64

Pretrial Detention 65

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL POLICY

- Private Jails 66



Do the Right Thing 67

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE

- Jimmy's First Day in Jail 68

- Special Problems of Detainees 68
- Release from Detention 72

The Bail Problem and Alternatives 73

- Release on Recognizance 73
- Pretrial Diversion 74
- Conduct During Pretrial Release 76
- Preventive Detention 76

The Sentenced Jail Inmate 77

MYTHS IN CORRECTIONS Jails Are for Misdemeanants 77

Issues in Jail Management 78

- Legal Liability 79
- Jail Standards 79
- Personnel Matters 80
- Community Programs for Jails 80

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

- Eye Scanning in Jails 82

- The Jail Facility 82

The Future of the Jail 84

Summary 85

CHAPTER 04 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: PROBATION AND INTERMEDIATE SANCTIONS / 88

Community Corrections: Assumptions 90

Probation 91

The History and Development of Probation 91

MYTHS IN CORRECTIONS Who Is on Probation? 93

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE

New York City Probation Goes Nontraditional:

NeOns for Probation Reporting 94

Intermediate Sanctions 95

Problems with Intermediate Sanctions 96



Do the Right Thing 97

Varieties of Intermediate Sanctions 97

Making Intermediate Sanctions Work 103

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE

Teenager's Death Leads Florida to Close Boot Camp 104

The New Correctional Professional 106

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Objective Risk-Assessment Systems 107

Community Corrections Legislation 108

Reducing the Reliance on Prison 108

Evaluation of Community Corrections Legislation 108

The Future of Community Corrections 109

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL POLICY

Community Corrections Today 110

Summary 110

CHAPTER 05 PROBATION SUPERVISION / 114

The Dual Functions of Probation: Investigation and Supervision 116

The Investigative Function 117

Purpose 117

Contents 118

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE

Sample Presentence Report 119

Recommendations 120

Disclosure 120



Do the Right Thing 121

Private PSIs 121

The Supervisory Function 122

The Officer 122

FOCUS ON CORRECTIONAL PRACTICE

Sample Supervision Plan 123