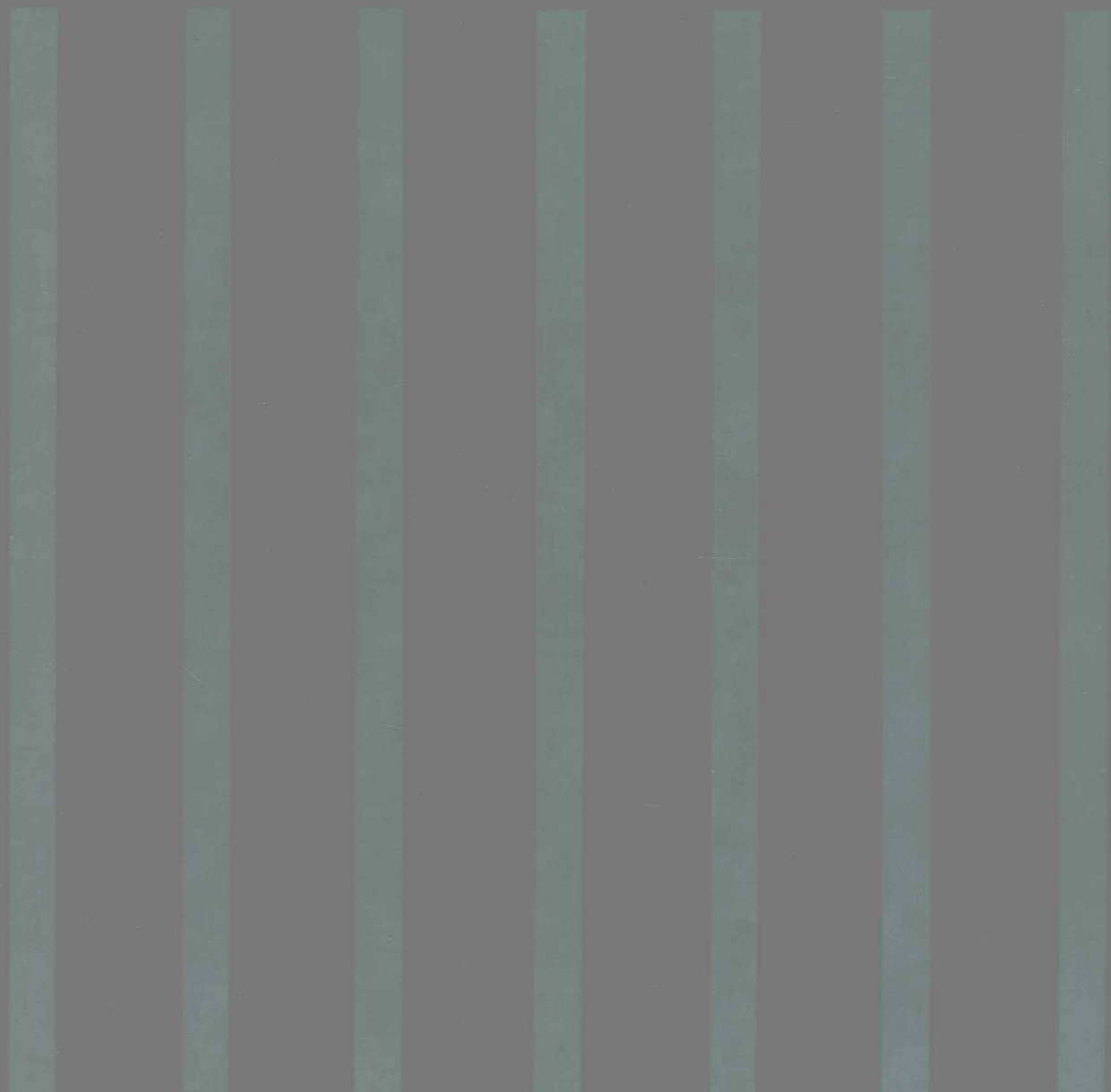


CORRECTIONS IN AMERICA

AN INTRODUCTION

Fourth Edition

Harry E. Allen / Clifford E. Simonsen



Corrections in America

AN INTRODUCTION

FOURTH EDITION

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**Dedicated to the “New Professionals” in the field of Corrections.
May they succeed where others have failed.**

FOREWORD

As we enter the mid-1980s, we are confronted with an urgent need for better information and better informed people in all areas of human endeavor. The field of corrections is no exception. Although the popular stereotypes and mythologies of the past still dominate our conception of current correctional conditions, the perceptive observer is struck by the pace of events that effect and influence this rapidly changing field. Most professionals realize that we can no longer take refuge in the comfortable assumptions and certainties of the past. A new era is dawning in which few facts regarding the causes and cures for crime and criminals may be considered to be unquestionably established. In previous generations a standard text might have served as an authority for ten or even twenty years. Today, we must have new knowledge at our fingertips. We must have well-researched and carefully reasoned information at our command—information that is practical, pragmatic, and to the point.

In the fourth edition of *Corrections in America: An Introduction*, Allen and Simonsen have updated their earlier work, which has now become a standard text, widely used by students, professionals, and practitioners in the field. They have incorporated new input from a wide variety of sources into an updated design and format. While the scope of coverage is essentially the same, the authors have sought to eliminate redundancy and have amplified some areas to reflect changing trends of the times. A greater emphasis has been given to the role and importance of management theory and practice in correctional administration. The authors have expanded the attention given to community corrections and alternative programs. In addition, new photos and graphics have been added.

Allen and Simonsen have sought to avoid the pitfalls so often associated with polemic provocation, a pet theory, or a preestablished position on correctional philosophy and practice. They do not seek to seduce with promises of panaceas or with the allurements of the primrose path provided by the latest fad or fashion. They do not attempt to provide a “quick fix” for a problem so much as they attempt to give a “fast fix” on a problem. The authors’ careful, considerate scholarship and critical analysis are manifestly evident throughout this edition. By providing essential knowledge and basic facts, their text serves as a succinct source of authoritative information.

Seneca, the Roman philosopher, once observed that “he who profits by crime is guilty of it.” Today, many persons may be said to be profiting, directly or indirectly, from crime. This is certainly not limited only to those who are adjudicated as *criminals* but may well include law enforcement personnel, judges, lawyers, correctional professionals, and all those who come in contact with the correctional structure. A legal-judicial-correctional complex exists that is as real and as vested in its interests as the so-called military-industrial complex. Allen and Simonsen challenge us to examine our

motives as well as our *methods* and our *principles* as well as our *practices* in corrections.

This volume provides, under one cover, a convenient handbook and a readable reference work which reflects serious scholarship and a sensitivity to the complex issues in contemporary corrections. The authors have provided those interested and involved in this field with a work that makes a genuine contribution to general knowledge and professional practice in corrections in the 1980s and that will affect the direction of the field in the future.

Norman F. Chamberlain, D.Ed.
Past President
International Halfway House Association
Co-Chairman Correctional Standards Board,
State of Washington, Seattle, Washington

PREFACE

Corrections in America: An Introduction in its fourth edition remains a text for use at the introductory level, exploring the broad spectrum of systems, processes, and people that constitute the field of corrections. The corrections concept covers a wide range of activity. This text will attempt to review where corrections in America originated, where it is today, where it seems to be going from here, and what issues need to be resolved to get there. The reader will soon appreciate that there are no easy answers to the question, “What is corrections?” It will become apparent in the course of reading this text that corrections programs are a poorly articulated series of nearly independent operations, sometimes with conflicting goals, all trying to effect some kind of change in the offender. This knowledge should stimulate readers to seek appropriate reforms in their chosen sectors of criminal justice.

We have attempted to give a clear overview of each of the categories that comprise this field. We have not attempted to explore particular subjects in great depth at the sacrifice of others of which it is important for the introductory student to be aware. We offer this text to the student in the firm belief that it will provide an enjoyable as well as educational experience. To the educator, we offer a text that has been organized and written with the goal of making the teaching and learning experiences as effective and interesting as possible while covering the essentials of the subject.

The fourth edition of *Corrections in America* builds on the strengths of the previous three editions. We have retained the same style of presentation of our material, making changes only to eliminate redundancy or to add new material. We have continued to place footnotes at the end of each chapter but have moved even more references into the body of the text to minimize the need to refer to lengthy footnotes. These efforts, along with the necessary updating of statistical and topical information, result in a book that is still the same in regard to readability and effectiveness as a teaching tool but is at the same time new and fresh.

Organization of the Text

This text is divided into eight parts and twenty-seven chapters. Part 1, “History and Evolution of Corrections,” examines the past and present status of the handling of prisoners and the emergence of a system of correctional institutions and processes to deal with this segment of the criminal justice system. Chapter 1 examines early history from tribalism to the Age of Enlightenment. Chapter 2 examines the emergence of imprisonment as a form of punishment and atonement for crime. Chapter 3 looks at the development and spread of the industrial prisons in America and the problems

that beset the “Age of Prisons.” Chapter 4 studies the problems of a society faced with modern problems and nineteenth century facilities in which men and women are faced with enforced idleness. Chapter 5 wraps up the section by examining the various ideologies associated with the treatment and processing of society’s prisoners and their cyclical swings between hard and soft orientations.

Part 2, “Law and the Correctional Process,” deals with the offender in the arms of the judicial system and the options available. Chapter 6 looks at the two basic types of offenses that bring the offender into the system—the misdemeanor and the felony. Chapter 7 studies the various alternatives that are available to the courts and the funneling process that precedes incarceration for the few. Chapter 8 examines the currently difficult issue of sentencing and the range of choices between “flat” and “indeterminate.” The last chapter in this part, Chapter 9, deals with the logjam that has developed in the appeals system.

Part 3, “The Correctional Process,” examines the three major subsystems of the larger process called corrections. Chapter 10 deals with probation—the option that is available before incarceration—and its derivation and practice. Chapter 11 is the major chapter focusing on the process of imprisonment, studying the ranges of control and process in this part of corrections. Chapter 12 examines a system under attack—the concept of early release under parole supervision.

Part 4, “The Rights of the Convicted Criminal,” is concerned with some of the major issues in this regard. Chapter 13 is a combined version of two chapters of the second edition, “Prisoner Rights in Confinement” and “The Use of Force.” It examines both of these problems in detail. Chapter 14 is a new study of the problems surrounding the issue of capital punishment in light of the rapidly changing legal scene. Chapter 15 delves into the key issues that affect the offender attempting to reenter society.

Part 5, “The Correctional Client,” is a review of the different kinds of persons who are processed by the various systems. Chapter 16 and 17 examine male and female offenders, respectively. Both of these chapters have been extensively rewritten and updated. Chapter 18 has been restructured to reflect some of the critical issues facing the juvenile justice system and the treatment of juvenile offenders. Chapter 19 deals with those categories that are at the “fringes” of the correctional system and that pose problems for all of the programs.

Part 6, “Correctional Administration,” has been restructured to reflect more management theory and applications in corrections. Chapter 20 presents management concepts and how they can apply to corrections. Chapters 21 and 22 deal with the problems that exist between the two missions of custody and treatment.

Part 7, “Correctional Systems,” looks at the present systems at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as at the field of community corrections. Chapter 23 examines the county jails and city detention facilities. Chapter 24 reviews correctional systems at the state level. The federal system—its benefits and its problems—is covered in Chapter 25. Chapter 26 is a revised and updated view of the emerging hope of community corrections.

Part 8, “Summary and Overview,” is composed of a single chapter that addresses the hopes and fears of the 1980s for corrections and the correctional process.

A glossary of terms for the criminal justice professional is included as an appendix, along with a complete index to persons, topics, and terminology.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As we finish the work on the fourth edition, we would like to acknowledge our debt to those who encouraged us to write this text initially, to those whose wide use of the text has required a second and third edition, and to those who advised and critiqued these efforts. We are flattered and pleased that the text continues to be used and reused by our colleagues.

The efforts of the Bureau of Justice Statistics in producing current and topical research, publications, monographs, and other material must be congratulated. These materials allow a writer to have the broadest possible perspective at hand in the preparation of a text such as this one.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons, the American Correctional Association, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Pennsylvania Department of Correction, and the National Clearinghouse for Correctional Programming and Architecture, all receive our deep-felt thanks as well. These agencies were especially helpful in providing historical and current material, as well as most of the photographs used in this text.

Walker and Company, publishers of *The New Red Barn* and *The Human Cage*, must also receive our thanks and acknowledgments for allowing us to use many passages from these two fine books.

The publication of the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals' many volumes of exceptional material made it possible for us not only to *describe* the correctional milieu but also to *prescribe* in many areas possible cures for its problems.

It is virtually impossible to acknowledge all of the other colleagues and professionals who assisted and encouraged us in this endeavor. To delineate a list of those who did would result in certain omission of some. You all know who you are, so we hereby acknowledge each of you with deep gratitude. Jim Anker, our Senior Editor at Macmillan deserves a special thanks for his gentle but persistent nagging at two busy authors—and it finally got the job done! We must also thank Joel Brauser and George Carr for sorting out our cryptic and sometimes illegible revisions. Copy editors always make us proud of what “we” wrote. Their efforts, including the prodding of sometimes lazy authors, have made this edition a readable effort. Last, but not least, we thank our families and friends—all of whom saw little of us during this process.

H.E.A.
C.E.S.

CONTENTS

	FOREWORD	vii
	PREFACE	ix
PART 1.	1. EARLY HISTORY (2000 B.C.–1700 A.D.)	3
HISTORY AND	Behavior as a Continuum, 3	
EVOLUTION OF	Redress of Wrongs, 4	
CORRECTIONS	Retaliation, 4 Fines and Punishments, 5	
	Early Codes, 5	
	Babylonian and Sumerian Codes, 5 Crime and Sin, 6	
	Roman and Greek Codes, 6 The Middle Ages, 7	
	Punishment, 7	
	Capital and Corporal Punishment, 7 Deterrence, 9	
	Emergence of Secular Law, 9 Early Prisons, 10	
	Workhouses, 11	
	Summary, 12	
	Review Questions, 12	
	Key Terms, 12	
	Notes, 13	
	2. A CENTURY OF CHANGE (1700–1800)	15
	Age of Enlightenment and Reform, 15	
	Montesquieu and Voltaire, the French Humanists, 15	
	Beccaria, Founder of the “Classical” School, 16	
	Bentham and the “Hedonistic Calculus,” 18 John	
	Howard, 19 William Penn and the “Great Law,” 20	
	Houses of Corrections, Workhouses, and Gaols, 21	
	Transportation Systems, 21	
	Deportation to the Colonies and Australia, 21 Hulks:	
	A Sordid Episode, 22	
	Early Cellular Prisons, 23	
	The Maison de Force at Ghent and the Hospice of	
	San Michele, 23 The Walnut Street Jail, 24	
	Bentham’s Panopticon, 26	
	Summary, 27	
	Review Questions, 27	
	Key Terms, 27	
	Notes, 28	

3. THE AGE OF PRISONS (1800–1960)	30
The Pennsylvania System, 30	
The Auburn System, 31	
<i>Discipline at Auburn, 34 A Model for Other Prisons,</i>	
35	
Prison Discipline, 37	
Rules, 37	
Beginnings of Prison Industry, 41	
Maconochie and Crofton: A New Approach, 42	
<i>Maconochie and the Indeterminate Sentence, 42</i>	
<i>Crofton and the Irish System, 42</i>	
The Reformatory Era (1870–1910), 43	
Post-Civil War Prisons, 45	
The Twentieth Century and the Industrial Prison, 46	
The Period of Transition (1935–1960), 49	
Summary, 51	
Review Questions, 51	
Key Terms, 51	
Notes, 51	
4. THE MODERN ERA	54
Internally Sought Reform, 54	
Externally Induced Reform, 56	
<i>Reform by the Courts, 57 Reform by Legislation, 60</i>	
<i>Reform by Executive Order, 61</i>	
Corrections in the 1970s, 61	
Corrections in the 1980s: Directions for the Future, 62	
Summary, 64	
Review Questions, 65	
Key Terms, 65	
Notes, 65	
5. CORRECTIONAL IDEOLOGIES: THE PENDULUM SWINGS	68
Conflicting Correctional Ideologies, 68	
<i>The Punishment Ideology, 69 The Treatment</i>	
<i>Ideology, 73 The Prevention Ideology, 75</i>	
The Pendulum Swings, 77	
Summary, 77	
Review Questions, 78	
Key Terms, 78	
Notes, 78	
Recommended Readings, 79	

**PART 2.
LAW AND THE
CORRECTIONAL
PROCESS**

6. MISDEMEANANTS AND FELONS: A DUAL SYSTEM	83
Common Law Origins of Crime, 83	
Felonies, 83	
<i>Crimes Against the Person</i> , 83	
<i>Crimes Against Property</i> , 85	
<i>Crimes Against Morality and Decency</i> , 86	
Misdemeanors, 87	
<i>The Statistics</i> , 87	
<i>Alcoholics and the Revolving Door</i> , 87	
<i>Trends Not Favoring Misdemeanants</i> , 91	
Misdemeanor or Felony: Offender or Offense?, 91	
Summary, 92	
Review Questions, 93	
Key Terms, 93	
Notes, 93	
 7. THE CORRECTIONAL FUNNEL	 95
The Elements of the Criminal Justice System, 96	
<i>Discretion and the Police</i> , 96	
<i>The Prosecutor's Decision</i> , 98	
<i>The Court's Dilemma</i> , 101	
Another Look at Crime Statistics, 103	
Summary, 105	
Review Questions, 105	
Key Terms, 105	
Notes, 105	
 8. SENTENCING	 108
The Sentencing Decision, 108	
Rapid Changes in Sentencing, 108	
The Sentencing Decision, 108	
<i>Rapid Changes in Sentencing</i> , 108	
<i>New Goals</i> , 109	
<i>Reform Options</i> , 109	
<i>Reform Effects</i> , 109	
<i>Predicting Behavior</i> , 110	
The Presentence Investigation, 110	
Judicial versus Administrative Sentencing, 112	
Practical Problems in Sentencing, 112	
Problems in Setting Prison "Terms", 113	
Problems with Penal Codes, 118	
Sentence Length, 119	
<i>"Worst Offender" Crimes</i> , 119	
<i>Models for Sentencing</i> , 120	
Summary, 121	

Review Questions, 121
Key Terms, 122
Notes, 122

9. APPELLATE REVIEW 124

The Issue of Due Process, 124
The Path of a Criminal Case, 125
The Mechanics of an Appeal, 129
 Who Makes the Appeal? 130 *The Courts of Appeal,*
 130
Appeals from Behind the Walls, 133
Breaking the Appellate Logjam, 135
 Screening, 135 *Diversion,* 136
Where Are the Next Areas of Appeal? 137
The Aging Court, 138
Summary, 139
Review Questions, 140
Key Terms, 140
Notes, 140
Recommended Readings, 141

PART 3. THE CORRECTIONAL PROCESS

10. PROBATION 145

The Sanctuary and Suspended Sentence, 145
The History of Probation, 146
 The Birth of Probation, 146 *The Spread of*
 Probation, 146
What Is Probation Today? 147
Organization and Administration, 149
Probation Services, 151
Restrictions and Conditions, 153
 Victim Compensation, 154 *Probation Continues to*
 Be a Mainstay of Corrections, 154 *Probation*
 Without Adjudication, 156
Summary, 157
Review Questions, 158
Key Terms, 158
Notes, 159

11. IMPRISONMENT 161

The History of Imprisonment, 161
Maximum Security Prisons, 164
 The Gothic Monoliths, 165 *Classification: A Move*
 Toward Corrections, 166 *Inside the Walls,* 169
Medium and Minimum Security Institutions, 172
Prison Populations Increase, 174
Sex and Corrections, 175
The Future of Imprisonment, 177
Summary, 180

Review Questions, 181
Key Terms, 181
Notes, 181

12. PAROLE 184

Origins of Parole, 184
 Good-Time Laws, 184 Indeterminate Sentencing, 185 Pardon and Parole: The Way Out of Prison, 186
Parole Administration, 187
 The Parole Board, 187 The Parole Selection Process, 190
Conditions for Parole, 192
Personnel and Caseload Problems in Parole, 195
Emerging Issues in Parole, 196
 Parole Remains a Major Segment of Corrections, 199
Summary, 202
Review Questions, 203
Key Terms, 203
Notes, 203
Recommended Readings, 205

**PART 4.
THE RIGHTS
OF THE
CONVICTED
CRIMINAL**

13. PRISONERS' RIGHTS IN CONFINEMENT 209

What is the Convicted Offender's Status? 209
Community Ties: A Basic Need, 210
 Visitation, 210 Use of the Mails, 213
Religion in Prison, 214
Access to Court and Counsel, 215
The Right to Medical Treatment and Services, 216
Remedies for Violations of Rights, 218
A New Shift in Direction, 219
Summary, 219
Review Questions, 220
Key Terms, 220
Notes, 220

14. THE DEATH PENALTY 223

The Death Penalty as a Public Spectacle, 223
Origins of the Death Penalty, 225
Cruel and Unusual Punishment, 225
 Arbitrary Use of the Death Penalty, 225 The Eighth Amendment versus the Death Penalty, 232 The 1976 Decisions, 235
Public Opinion, 237
 The Controversy Continues, 237
Death Row Populations Mount: What to Do? 239
Time May Also Be Running Out for Women on Death Row, 241

Summary, 242
 Review Questions, 243
 Key Terms, 243
 Notes, 243

15. RIGHTS OF EX-OFFENDERS 246

The Legend of the Ex-Con, 246
 Collateral Consequences of Conviction, 247
 Stigma, 247 *The Transition Period: A Time of*
 Readjustment, 248 *Loss of Civil Rights*, 248 *Right*
 to Work versus Need to Work, 249 *Restricted*
 Trades: Barriers to Employment, 251
 The Problem with a Record, 251
 Registration of Criminals, 253 *Expungement as a*
 Response, 253 *Efforts at Expungement*, 254
 Restoring Offenders' Rights, 256
 Summary, 257
 Review Questions, 257
 Key Terms, 257
 Notes, 258
 Recommended Readings, 258

PART 5. THE CORRECTIONAL CLIENT

16. MALE OFFENDERS 263

Men and Boys in Jail, 263
 Characteristics of the Jail Population, 263
 Organization and Management, 266 *Recreation and*
 Services, 267
 Prisons: Warehouses for Men, 268
 Characteristics of the Prison Population, 269
 Prisonization, 274 *The Prison Population Boom*,
 275 *Rape in Prisons*, 276 *Alternatives for the*
 Future, 278
 Summary, 278
 Review Questions, 279
 Key Terms, 279
 Notes, 279

17. FEMALE OFFENDERS 281

Women and Crime, 281
 Crime Statistics for Women, 281 *Prostitution*, 281
 A Differential Justice System for Women? 282
 Women Behind Bars, 285
 Detainment Facilities for Women, 285 *Women's*
 Prisons, 286
 The CoCorrectional Institution, 288
 Women's Liberation and Women's Prisons, 290
 Summary, 291
 Review Questions, 291

Key Terms, 291

Notes, 291

18. JUVENILES: PUNISH OR PROTECT? 294

The Juvenile Crime Problem, 294

Juvenile Justice, 294

Parens Patriae, 294 *A Whole New Vocabulary*, 297

Categories of Juveniles, 297

Facilities for Juveniles, 301

Detention Facilities, 301 *Training Schools*, 302

The Legal Rights of Juveniles, 303

Some Landmark Cases, 304 *Procedural Rights*, 306

Procedural Rights at Other Stages of the Juvenile

Justice System, 310

The Correctional Funnel for Juveniles, 314

The Direction of Juvenile Justice, 314

Diversion of Juveniles, 314 *Decriminalization*, 317

Status Offenders, 317 *De Carceration*, 318 *The*

Washington State Experience: Accountability, 319

Summary, 320

Review Questions, 320

Key Terms, 320

Notes, 321

19. SPECIAL CATEGORY OFFENDERS 325

Special Kinds of Deviants, 325

The Mentally Disordered Offender, 325

The Emergence of the Asylum in America, 326

Two Ways to Escape the Death Penalty, 327 *The*

Criminally Insane, 327 *The Problem of Prediction*,

328

The Mentally Retarded Offender, 329

Clinical and Legal Definitions of Retardation and

Criminal Behavior, 330 *A Historic Perspective*, 330

Issues in Law Enforcement and Court Proceedings,

331 *Labeling*, 332

The Sex Offender, 333

"Sex Fiends" versus Sex Offenders, 333 *The*

Common Sex Offenses, 334 *Impact of New Public*

Policies Toward Sex, 336

The Elderly Offender, 337

Summary, 337

Review Questions, 338

Key Terms, 338

Notes, 338

Recommended Readings, 340

PART 6.	20. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION	345
CORRECTIONAL	Evolution of the Management Function in Corrections,	
ADMINISTRATION	345	
	Influence of the Prison, 346 Characteristics of	
	Correctional Management, 347 Pressures Toward	
	Integration of Services, 349	
	Corrections and the Development of a Science of	
	Management, 350	
	Fragmentation of Corrections, 353	
	Jails and Detention Facilities, 355 Probation and	
	Parole, 356 Adult Institutions, 357 Special	
	Category Institutions: In Transition, 358	
	Community Corrections, 358 Juvenile Justice:	
	Courts or Corrections? 359	
	Summary, 359	
	Review Questions, 360	
	Key Terms, 360	
	Notes, 360	
	21. CUSTODY	363
	Institutions: Bureaucratic Control, 363	
	Administrative Problem: Punish, Control, or Treat?, 363	
	Unionization: The Correctional Officers, 364	
	Inmate Organization: The Social System, 365	
	Institutions: Custody Is a Way of Life, 366	
	Prison Rules, 366	
	Inmate Traffic and Its Control, 366 Discipline, 367	
	Contraband and Shakedown, 368	
	Prevention of Escape, 369	
	Correctional Officers, 372	
	The Military Model, 372 Upgrading Correctional	
	Personnel, 373	
	Summary, 375	
	Questions, 377	
	Review, 377	
	Key Terms, 377	
	Notes, 377	
	22. TREATMENT	379
	The Treatment Model, 379	
	Classification: Security or Treatment? 380	
	The Three Basic Services, 380	
	Health and Medical Services, 380 Chaplaincy	
	Services, 381 Education for Inmates, 383	
	The Vocational-Rehabilitation Model, 384	
	Professionals in the Field of Corrections, 386	
	Psychologists, 386 Psychiatrists, 386 Sociologists,	
	387 Social Workers, 387	