

Revised (a)6 and (e)6.

Amended by R.1997 d.122, effective March 17, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 80(b), 29 N.J.R. 880(a).

In (a), deleted "which, in their professional judgment, bear upon the inmate's suitability for reduced custody status" following "all relevant factors"; inserted new (a)5; recodified former (a)5 and (a)6 as (a)6 and (a)7; deleted (e)5, providing that serious health problems are reason for increasing custody status; and recodified former (e)6 as (e)5.

Amended by R.2002 d.190, effective June 17, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1082(a), 34 N.J.R. 2030(a).

Substituted "I.C.C." for "Institutional Classification Committee" and "Administrator" for "Superintendent" throughout; (f), substituted "business" for "working" following "five".

Amended by R.2007 d.42, effective February 5, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4389(a), 39 N.J.R. 489(a).

Added new (a)5 and (a)8; and recodified former (a)5, (a)6, and (a)7 as (a)6, (a)7, and (a)9, respectively.

#### Case Notes

Regulation that allows prison superintendent and Institutional Classification Committee to increase custody status of an inmate who has been granted reduced custody status does not give superintendent and committee unbridled discretion to make that determination; discretion must be circumscribed by the factors, as listed in another regulation, that govern custody status decisions. *Smith v. Dept. of Corrections*, 346 N.J. Super. 24, 786 A.2d 165 (A.D. 2001).

Under governing regulations, neither the nature of an inmate's conviction, except for those offenses specifically excluded, nor the location of a correctional facility within a residential area alone, may permanently disqualify an inmate from consideration for "full minimum custody status." *Smith v. Dept. of Corrections*, 346 N.J. Super. 24, 786 A.2d 165 (A.D. 2001).

Decision of Institutional Classification Committee, initially withholding "full minimum custody status" from newly-transferred inmate with aggravated manslaughter conviction who had received that custody status at other prison facility, was not abuse of discretion. *Smith v. Dept. of Corrections*, 346 N.J. Super. 24, 786 A.2d 165 (A.D. 2001).

#### 10A:9-4.6 Criteria for consideration for gang minimum custody status and full minimum custody status

(a) Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 10A:9-4.7 and 4.8, inmates who meet the criteria set forth in this section are eligible to be considered for full minimum custody status preceded by the successful completion of a period of time in gang minimum custody status. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:9-4.3(d), the amount of time served in gang minimum custody status shall be at the discretion of the Institutional Classification Committee (I.C.C.).

1. Inmates housed at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women (EMCF) who meet the criteria set forth in this section are eligible to be considered for full minimum custody status without the prerequisite of a successful completion of a period of time in gang minimum custody status.

(b) Inmates who have had their contact visit privileges terminated due to a finding of guilt to a prohibited act identified in a zero tolerance policy as established in N.J.A.C. 10A:4-5.1 and 12 shall not be eligible for consideration for any custody status lower than medium custody until after contact visit privileges are reinstated (see N.J.A.C. 10A:18-6.20).

(c) As a condition of eligibility for consideration of any custody status lower than medium custody, inmates who are assigned to a therapeutic community (T.C.) or treatment program must accept, participate and successfully complete the assignment.

(d) As a condition of eligibility for consideration of any custody status lower than medium custody, inmates shall be required to complete the clinical screening for substance use disorder treatment.

(e) I.C.C.s are not obligated to advance an inmate from gang minimum custody status to full minimum custody status even though the inmate qualifies for consideration under the criteria set forth in this section.

(f) When considering inmates for reduced custody status who are serving ordinary or extended prison sentences with no mandatory minimum, the I.C.C. shall take into account all presentence jail credits awarded by the court on the instant offense. Inmates must have served the following number of years of their sentences in medium or higher custody status to be eligible to be considered for a reduced custody status.

<u>Length of Sentence</u>	<u>Years in Medium and Higher Custody Status</u>
Over 30 years to life	5
Over 25 and up to 30 years	4
Over 20 and up to 25 years	3
Over 15 and up to 20 years	2
Over 10 and up to 15 years	1
10 years and under	None

(g) Inmates sentenced to serve mandatory minimum terms of 24 months or less are eligible to be considered for gang minimum custody status and full minimum custody status immediately following admission to a correctional facility.

(h) Inmates returned to custody for violation of parole who were sentenced under the No Early Release Act (NERA) at N.J.S.A. 2C:43-7.2 shall be ineligible for custody status lower than medium custody for nine months following admission to a correctional facility. NERA parole violators with 24 months or less to serve may be considered for reduced custody status after the initial nine months of custody, and those with more than 24 months to serve may be considered for reduced custody after serving one half of the balance of time to be served.

(i) Inmates who were considered for reduced custody status prior to April 2, 1990, and were sentenced to serve mandatory minimum terms of more than 24 months are eligible to be considered for gang minimum custody status and full minimum custody status when the following service of time has been met. Any presentence jail credit awarded on the instant offense shall be counted. No credit toward this requirement is to be given on any prior sentence which an inmate may currently be serving.

1. If the mandatory minimum is one-half or greater than one-half of the term imposed, the inmate shall serve

one-half of the mandatory minimum. (EXAMPLE: If the term is 20 years and the mandatory minimum is 10 years, the inmate must serve five years.)

2. If the mandatory minimum is less than one-half of the term imposed, the inmate shall serve one-third of the mandatory minimum. (EXAMPLE: If the term is 20 years and the mandatory minimum is 8 years, the inmate must serve two years and eight months.)

3. However, in any instance where the application of (i)2 above would result in an inmate being eligible for consideration in less time than if he or she had no mandatory minimum, then the formula set forth in (f) above shall be applied such that the greater amount of time shall be spent in medium or higher custody status. (EXAMPLE: If the inmate has a 20 year term and a mandatory minimum of three years, he or she shall serve the two years required in (f) above instead of the one year which would be required under (i)2 above.)

(j) Inmates who were considered for reduced custody status on or after April 2, 1990, and were sentenced to serve mandatory minimum terms of more than 24 months are eligible to be considered for gang minimum custody status and full minimum custody status when the inmate has served one-half of the mandatory minimum or is within 24 months of the expiration of the mandatory minimum term, whichever is less. (EXAMPLE 1: If the inmate has a mandatory minimum of three years, one-half of three years is equal to one year and six months. However, after the inmate serves one year on his or her three year mandatory minimum he or she is within 24 months of the expiration date. The inmate is therefore eligible for reduced custody status after having served only one year in medium or higher custody status because one year is less. EXAMPLE 2: If the inmate has a mandatory minimum of five years, one-half of five years is two and one-half years. However, the inmate must serve three years prior to being within 24 months of the expiration date. The inmate is therefore eligible for reduced custody after having served only two and one-half years in medium or higher custody status because two and one-half years is less.) Any presentence jail credit awarded on the instant offense shall be counted. Time served on a prior sentence may not be applied to satisfy this requirement.

(k) In any instance where the application of (j) above would result in an inmate being eligible for consideration in less time than if he or she had no mandatory minimum, then the formula set forth in (f) above shall be applied such that the greater amount of time shall be spent in medium or higher custody status. (EXAMPLE: If the inmate has a 20 year term and a mandatory minimum of three years, he or she shall serve the two years required in (f) above instead of the one and one-half years which would be required under (j) above.)

(l) When considering inmates with indeterminate sentences for reduced custody status, the I.C.C. shall take into account all presentence jail credits awarded by the court on the instant offense.

(m) Inmates with indeterminate sentences must have served the following number of months of their sentences to be eligible to be considered for a reduced custody status:

<u>Length of Sentence</u>	<u>Months in Medium or Higher Custody Status</u>
30 years to life	42
25 through 29 years	30
20 through 24 years	18
15 through 19 years	6
Up to 15 years	None

(n) Inmates with detainees from jurisdictions other than New Jersey shall not be eligible to be considered for reduced custody status unless the following provisions apply:

1. The detainees for adjudicated offenses are for concurrent sentences which do not exceed the maximum of the term currently being served; or

2. An inmate has applied under the Interstate Agreement on Detainers (I.A.D.) for disposition of the detainee and the inmate is not brought to trial within 180 calendar days from the date of the prosecuting authority's receipt of Form II and no court-ordered continuances were granted; or

3. A prosecutor has applied under the Interstate Agreement on Detainers (I.A.D.) for disposition of the detainee and the inmate is not brought to trial within 120 calendar days from the date of the inmate's arrival at the receiving state and no court ordered continuances were granted.

(o) Inmates with out-of-State or Federal open charge(s) regardless of the date of offense for the following serious offense(s) shall not be eligible for reduced custody status:

1. Homicide;
2. Maintaining or operating a CDS manufacturing facility;
3. Arson;
4. Sexual offense;
5. Kidnapping;
6. Escape; and/or
7. Carjacking.

(p) Inmates with out-of-State or Federal open charge(s) for the following offense(s) shall not be eligible for reduced custody status if the date of the offense(s) is within five years of the consideration:

1. Distribution/manufacture of CDS offense of the 1st or 2nd degree;
2. Offense of an assaultive nature;
3. Burglary of the 2nd degree;
4. Weapons offense;

5. Robbery; and/or

6. Terroristic threat offense.

(q) An open charge exceeding five years for (p) above shall not be considered a bar for reduced custody consideration.

(r) Inmates who have a New Jersey detainer(s) are eligible to be considered for gang minimum custody status and full minimum custody status unless the detainer(s) is for one of the following:

1. Homicide;
2. Arson;
3. Manufacturing, distribution or dispensing CDS offense if 1st or 2nd degree crimes;
4. Sexual offense;
5. Offense of an assaultive nature as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:12b (Aggravated Assault) or N.J.S.A. 2A:90-1 et seq.;
6. Kidnapping as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:13 or 2A:118-1 et seq.;
7. Burglary as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2b and 2A:94-1 et seq.;
8. Escape;
9. Bail jumping as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:29-7 and 2A:15-1 et seq.;
10. Prohibited weapons and devices as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 2A:151;
11. Robbery as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1 and 2A:141.1 et seq.;
12. Terroristic threats as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:12-3;
13. Maintaining or operating a controlled dangerous substance production facility as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:35-4; and/or
14. Carjacking as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:15-2.

(s) Inmates with a New Jersey open charge(s) regardless of the date of the offense for the following offense(s) shall not be eligible for reduced custody status:

1. Homicide;
2. Maintaining or operating a CDS manufacturing facility;
3. Arson;
4. Sexual offense;
5. Kidnapping;
6. Escape; and/or

7. Carjacking.

(t) Inmates with a New Jersey open charge(s) for the following offenses shall not be eligible for reduced custody status if the date of the offense(s) is within five years of consideration:

1. Manufacturing, distributing or dispensing CDS offense if 1st or 2nd degree crimes;
2. Offense of an assaultive nature;
3. Burglary of the 2nd degree;
4. Weapons offense;
5. Robbery; and/or
6. Terroristic threat offense.

(u) An open charge(s) exceeding five years for (t) above shall not be considered a bar for reduced custody consideration.

(v) Foreign born inmates, excluding U.S. territories and possessions, shall be eligible to be considered for reduced custody status provided the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has not responded to referrals within 120 calendar days.

(w) Inmates who have a current or prior conviction for escape or attempted escape, or have been found guilty of the prohibited act of escape or attempted escape, shall be eligible for gang or full minimum custody status as follows:

1. Eligible inmates shall be those who are not excluded from reduced custody status pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10A:9-4.8(e), and are otherwise eligible according to the criteria set forth in this subchapter.
2. Inmates who have escaped or attempted to escape from a medium or higher security facility or county jail, within or outside the State of New Jersey shall be eligible when five years have elapsed from the date of apprehension of the escape or from the date of the attempted escape.
3. Inmates who have escaped or attempted to escape from a minimum security facility, detail or unit, within or outside the State of New Jersey, shall be eligible when two years have elapsed from the date of apprehension of the escape or from the date of the attempted escape.

Amended by R.1987 d.156, effective April 6, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 178(c), 19 N.J.R. 534(c).

Added (d); old (d) through (j) renumbered (e) through (k).

Amended by R.1990 d.195, effective April 2, 1990.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3050(a), 22 N.J.R. 1143(a).

Added new (f) and (g), recodified and deleted references to "in-and-out custody status".

Administrative correction to (f).

See: 22 N.J.R. 1378(a).

Administrative correction to (k)3: changed (j) below to (l) below.

See: 22 N.J.R. 2969(a).

Amended by R.1992 d.79, effective February 18, 1992.

See: 23 N.J.R. 3721(a), 24 N.J.R. 612(a).

Revised (e), (f), (i); added (k)4; revised (l)3.

Amended by R.1994 d.197, effective April 18, 1994.  
 See: 26 N.J.R. 728(a), 26 N.J.R. 1658(b).  
 Amended by R.1997 d.122, effective March 17, 1997.  
 See: 29 N.J.R. 80(b), 29 N.J.R. 880(a).

Substantially amended section.

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1385(a).

Petition for Rulemaking.

Amended by R.2002 d.99, effective April 1, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 4194(a), 34 N.J.R. 1426(a).

Added new (b) through (d) and recodified existing (b) through (s) as (e) through (v); amended paragraph designation references throughout.

Amended by R.2002 d.190, effective June 17, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1082(a), 34 N.J.R. 2030(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2003 d.235, effective June 16, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1185(a), 35 N.J.R. 2647(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2004 d.355, effective September 20, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2293(a), 36 N.J.R. 4316(b).

In (a), added 1.

Emergency amendment, R.2005 d.435, effective November 15, 2005, (to expire January 14, 2006).

See: 37 N.J.R. 4575(a).

Rewrote (b).

Adopted concurrent amendment, R.2006 d.58, effective January 11, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4575(a), 38 N.J.R. 993(a).

Provisions of R.2005, d.435, adopted without change.

Amended by R.2006 d.398, effective November 20, 2006.

See: 38 N.J.R. 3121(a), 38 N.J.R. 4867(a).

In (b), updated the first N.J.A.C. reference.

Amended by R.2007 d.42, effective February 5, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4389(a), 39 N.J.R. 489(a).

In (n), inserted "not" and substituted "unless the following provisions apply" for "provided"; and rewrote (w).

Amended by R.2007 d.199, effective July 2, 2007.

See: 39 N.J.R. 747(a), 39 N.J.R. 2537(a).

In (v), substituted "U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)" for "United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (U.S.I.N.S.)."

#### **10A:9-4.7 Criteria for consideration for gang minimum custody status only**

(a) Inmates who meet the criteria set forth in this section shall be eligible to be considered for gang minimum custody status but not for full minimum custody status.

(b) In no case shall offenses adjudicated by a juvenile court be the sole basis for excluding an inmate from consideration.

(c) An inmate who is presently serving a sentence for one count of a sexual offense and has no prior adult convictions for sexual offenses, or an inmate who is presently serving a sentence for a nonsexual offense but who has a prior adult conviction for one count of a sexual offense may be considered for gang minimum custody status provided:

1. The inmate is otherwise eligible according to the criteria set forth in this subchapter; and

2. There is a psychiatric or psychological evaluation, not more than six months old, which focuses specifically on the inmate's criminal sexual behavior and his or her likelihood for success in reduced custody status; or

3. The inmate is housed at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center (A.D.T.C.) and is approved for reduced custody status by the Institutional Classification Committee (I.C.C.) and Administrator of A.D.T.C., only for job assignment on A.D.T.C. property.

(d) An inmate who presently is serving a sentence for one conviction of arson or fire setting or malicious destruction involving arson, with no previous such adult convictions; or an inmate presently serving a sentence for a nonarson offense but who has a prior adult conviction for arson, fire setting or malicious destruction involving arson, is eligible to be considered for gang minimum custody status provided:

1. He or she is otherwise eligible according to the criteria set forth in this subchapter; and

2. There is a psychiatric or psychological evaluation, not more than six months old, which focuses specifically on the inmate's likelihood for success in gang minimum custody status in light of the present or past conviction for arson.

Amended by R.1990 d.195, effective April 2, 1990.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3050(a), 22 N.J.R. 1143(a).

(c)3. deleted and replaced, reference to "in-and-out custody status" deleted.

Amended by R.1992 d.79, effective February 18, 1992.

See: 23 N.J.R. 3721(a), 24 N.J.R. 612(a).

Revised (c)2.

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1385(a).

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3537(a), 31 N.J.R. 4127(b).

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2165(b).

Amended by R.2002 d.190, effective June 17, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1082(a), 34 N.J.R. 2030(a).

In (c)3, substituted "Administrator" for "Superintendent" preceding "of A.D.T.C."

#### **10A:9-4.8 Eligibility limitations for reduced custody status**

(a) Inmates serving sentences for the offenses described below are not eligible to be considered for any type of reduced custody status, except those inmates housed at the Adult Diagnostic Treatment Center (A.D.T.C.) described in N.J.A.C. 10A:9-4.7(c)3.

(b) In no case may offenses adjudicated by a juvenile court be the sole basis for excluding an inmate from consideration.

(c) An inmate who presently is serving a sentence for one count of a sexual offense and who has a prior adult conviction for one count of a sexual offense under the laws of this State, any other state or the United States; an inmate who presently is serving a sentence for more than one count of a sexual offense under the laws of this State, any other state or the United States; or an inmate who presently is serving a sentence for a nonsexual offense and has prior adult convictions for more than one count of a sexual offense under the laws of this State, any other state of the United States, is not eligible for reduced custody.