

# ORDER OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

CR 09-075

## INTRODUCTORY CLAUSE

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections proposes an order to amend DOC 309.466 (1) and (2), create DOC 309.466 (5), amend DOC 309.48 (title), amend DOC 309.49 (title), and create DOC 309.49 (4m), relating to inmate release accounts.

## ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

### RULE SUMMARY:

- A. **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** §§ 227.11 (2) and 301.03, Stats.
- B. **STATUTE INTERPRETED:** § 301.32, Stats.
- C. **EXPLANATION OF AGENCY AUTHORITY:**

The Department of Corrections has the authority to control an inmate's funds which are received during the inmate's period of incarceration. In addition, the Department has the responsibility of preparing inmates for their eventual release into the community, including assisting them in establishing a release account which can be used for a variety of purposes.

- D. **RELATED STATUTE OR RULE:** ch. DOC 309, Wis. Adm. Code, Resources for Inmates

### E. **PLAIN LANGUAGE ANALYSIS:**

The current rule prohibits the disbursement of funds from inmate release accounts, except for very limited purposes. Specifically, the rule limits the use of funds from inmate release accounts prior to release to the purchase of "adequate clothing for release" and for "out-of-state release transportation." The current rule provides for the Department to deduct fifteen percent (15 %) of all income earned by or received for the benefit of the inmate with the exception of work release or study release funds under ch. DOC 324. The current rule also has a limit on the amount which can be accumulated in the release account of \$500.00.

The rule proposal expands the purposes for which inmate release account funds can be used. Under the proposal, the Department may approve disbursement of funds for purposes which will aid in the inmate's reintegration into the community. The Department reduced the percentage of deduction to ten percent (10 %) but increased the amount which can be accumulated in the release account to \$5,000.00. The Department has also provided for the amount to be increased in accordance with the Consumer Price Index as defined in s. 16.004 (8) (e) 1., Stats., every five (5) years

starting January 1, 2010. The increase in the limit and the process for a continued increase are in response to the increased living costs which inmates face upon release from prison.

**F. SUMMARY OF, AND COMPARISON WITH, EXISTING OR PROPOSED FEDERAL REGULATIONS.**

There are no federal regulations which address inmate release accounts.

**G. COMPARISON WITH RULES IN ADJACENT STATES.**

1. Illinois. There are no administrative code provisions which address inmate release accounts.
2. Indiana. There are no administrative code provisions which address inmate release accounts.
3. Iowa. There are no administrative code provisions which address inmate release accounts.
4. Michigan. There are no administrative code provisions which address inmate release accounts.
5. Minnesota. There are no administrative code provisions which address inmate release accounts.

**H. SUMMARY OF FACTUAL DATA AND ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGIES.**

This rule does not affect small businesses.

**I. ANALYSIS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS USED TO DETERMINE EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS OR IN PREPARATION OF ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT.**

No economic impact report was required.

**J. EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS.**

There is no expected effect on small businesses under § 227.114, Stats.

**TEXT OF RULE**

SECTION 1. DOC 309.466 (1) and (2) are amended to read:

**DOC 309.466 (1)** ~~After the crime victim and witness assistance surcharge has been paid in full, as provided for in s. DOC 309.465, and upon~~ Upon transfer of the inmate to the first permanent placement, following assessment and evaluation under s. DOC 302.12, and in all subsequent placements, the institution business office shall deduct ~~45~~ 10% of all income earned by or received for the benefit of the inmate, except from work

release and study release funds under ch. DOC 324, until ~~\$500~~ \$5,000 is accumulated, and shall deposit the funds in a release account in the inmate's name. The department shall adjust the maximum release account amount every 5 years by multiplying \$5,000 by the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index, as defined in s. 16.004 (8) (e)1., Stats., from January 1, 2010 to January 1 of the next fifth year [2015, 2020] and adding that amount to \$5,000, rounded to the nearest \$100 increment. If the Consumer Price Index reflects a percentage decrease, the maximum release account amount will not be reduced but remain the same.

~~(2) Release account funds may not be disbursed for any reasons until the inmate is released to field supervision, except to purchase adequate clothing for release and for out-of-state release transportation. Prior to release, the department may authorize the disbursement of release account funds for purposes that will aid the inmate's reintegration into the community or that will reimburse the department for incarceration costs, including legal loans and restitution. Following the inmate's release, these funds shall be disbursed in accordance with s. DOC 309.49 (5).~~

SECTION 2. DOC 309.466 (5) is created to read:

(5) The institution business office shall disburse release account funds in accordance with s. DOC 309.48.

SECTION 3. DOC 309.48 (title) is amended to read:

**DOC 309.48 Procedure for inmate requests for disbursements of general inmate account funds.**

SECTION 4. DOC 309.49 (title) is amended to read:

**DOC 309.49 (title) Disbursement of general inmate account funds.**


SECTION 5. DOC 309.49 (4m) is created to read:

DOC 309.49 (4m) An inmate may request that the institution business office disburse release account funds. The institution business office shall disburse release account funds only for reasons consistent with the purposes under s. DOC 309.466 or subject to a lawful court order.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

This rule shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

Dated: 2/24/10

Agency:   
Rick Raemisch  
Secretary