

October 31, 2008

## DIRECTOR'S NEWS UPDATE



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### **Introduction of Cell Phones in DOC Facilities**

As you may be aware, the introduction of cell phones into Department of Corrections' facilities is a major security issue. Last year a state law was enacted creating a misdemeanor for anyone knowingly introducing a cell phone into a facility to be utilized by an offender. You may also be aware that in several cases, offenders have utilized these phones to commit a felony, i.e. drug sales and arranging for a murder. Of course we will prosecute the offender and the person who introduced the cell phone when the cell phone is used in the commission of a felony.

As a result of these continuing issues, introduction of cell phones to correctional facilities will be added as an automatic discharge from employment. In addition, charges will be pursued against employees as a misdemeanor in all cases and also as a felony if the cell phone is subsequently used by the offender in the commission of a felony. If a felony is filed on an employee, the retirement board will be notified to consider termination of retirement benefits.