

September 13, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

FROM:                    \s\  
                          D. Scott Dodrill, Assistant Director  
                          Correctional Programs Division

                          \s\  
                          W. F. Dalius, Jr.  
                          Assistant Director  
                          for Administration

SUBJECT:                Supplemental Guidance and New TRULINCS Feature  
                          -Inmate Public Messaging Service Restrictions

This memorandum provides supplemental guidance to staff when determining whether inmates should be restricted from using the Public Messaging Service function (electronic messaging) of the Trust Fund Limited Inmate Computer System (TRULINCS), pursuant to Section 3.a. of Program Statement 5265.13, Trust Fund Limited Inmate Computer System (TRULINCS) - Electronic Messaging. It is important that staff ensure inmates are only restricted from using TRULINCS, or individual TRULINCS functions, when absolutely necessary to protect the safety, security, or orderly operation of the correctional facility, or protection of the public.

When TRULINCS was introduced, electronic messaging was the only function available to inmates. Since that time, other functions have been added and others will be added that provide inmates with services such as Electronic Law Library, telephone call list, mailing labels, and Commissary fund management. TRULINCS has proven to be an efficient and cost-effective method of delivering these functions to inmates through "self-service" without jeopardizing our goals of safety and security.

Because TRULINCS provides functions to inmates in a "self-service" format, all inmates who are physically capable of

accessing a TRULINCS terminal should be provided access in all but limited cases. Electronic messaging is the only exception to this approach. It involves communication with persons in the community and the possibility of continuing criminal, or other prohibited activity that may jeopardize the safety and security of the institution.

As a result, the following supplemental staff guidance is provided to help determine when an inmate should be restricted from electronic messaging, but allowed access to the other TRULINCS functions.

Computer Knowledge and Skills. While no system is 100% secure, TRULINCS is designed to limit inmate users to select predefined options. Other than text input-fields, there is no ability for inmate users to access and manipulate program functions. Consequently, even inmates with personal histories of extensive computer knowledge and abilities should ordinarily be provided TRULINCS access.

History of Illegal Activities Using Computers. As with computer knowledge and skills, a TRULINCS messaging restriction based on this threat should be very rare, and only when the illegal activity involved use of e-mail.

Sex Offenders. Inmates cannot be restricted from the TRULINCS electronic messaging function simply based on a current or prior sex offense conviction. Rather, only inmates whose offense conduct, or other personal history, indicates a propensity to offend through the use of electronic messaging should then be seriously considered for restriction. This does not include inmates who previously offended by exchanging computer data files of pornographic images (children or otherwise) insofar as TRULINCS electronic messaging does not provide that function. Therefore, the risk of such further activity does not exist. Only inmates whose offense conduct or personal histories include using electronic messaging to solicit or accomplish offensive conduct with a victim should be restricted.

As a method of identifying these inmates, staff should review inmates with SENTRY CMA Walsh Assignments of Certified, With Conviction, and No Conviction, to determine if his/her participation in the electronic messaging program poses a realistic threat to the safety, security, and orderly operation of Bureau facilities, or protection of the public.

On August 10, 2010, we implemented a new feature to automatically restrict electronic messaging for newly arrived inmates with these SENTRY CMA Walsh Act Assignments, until Unit Management staff can review them to determine whether access is appropriate.

If you require further assistance, please contact  
Michael A. Atwood, Chief Trust Fund Branch, at 202-307-3144.

cc: Regional Directors