

# SANCTION LADDER



**GEORGIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## MISSION

To protect Georgians by operating secure facilities and providing opportunities for offender rehabilitation.

**Tyrone Oliver**, Commissioner

**Alan Watson**, Chief of Staff

**Ahmed Holt**, Assistant Commissioner Facilities Division

Offenders who violate the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) code of conduct are subject to disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions are determined by the severity level of the violation caused by the offender and are categorized as great, high, moderate, and low. The violation cannot receive a sanction intended for a higher severity level offense.

## TYPES OF CHARGES

### VIOLATION OF ANY LAW OF THE UNITED STATES OR GEORGIA

- Great Severity

### VIOLATION AGAINST PERSONS

- High – Great severity
- Violations against persons may include: causing injury or death to another, assault/fighting, shooting, stabbing (or attempt), threatening words (spoken or written)/gestures - sexual activity of any kind – including indecent exposure, obstruction, insubordination or bribery

### VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO THE SECURITY AND THE ORDERLY OPERATION OF THE PRISON

- High – Great severity
- Violations against the security and orderly operations may include: unauthorized meetings, planning or participation in disturbances/riots, escape or aiding escape (or attempt), failure to follow instructions, setting a fire, being in any restricted area, failure to complete work assignment, being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or obstruction during a search

### VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION AND/OR UNAUTHORIZED EXCHANGE OF ITEMS, SUBSTANCES, ETC.

- Low – Great Severity
- Violations against unauthorized possession/exchange of items may include: possession of any item deemed as contraband

### VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO PROPERTY AND INVOLVING FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

- Moderate – High severity
- Violations against property and involving fraud may include: giving items to another offender, theft, destruction of state property, lying

### VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- Moderate – High severity
- Violations against policy and procedure may include: gambling, violation of U.S. postal regulations, violation of visitation rules, using cell phone, feigning an injury or illness

### VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO SAFETY, EQUIPMENT AND PHYSICAL PLANT

- Moderate – High severity
- Violations against safety, equipment and physical plant may include: failure to comply with safety policy, careless operations of tools, smoking

### VIOLATIONS PERTAINING TO PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND SANITATION

- Low severity
- Violations against personal appearance and sanitation may include: failure to keep self clean, failure to keep personal area clean, failure to keep hair shaved/cut



# SANCTIONS

## GREAT SEVERITY OFFENSE SANCTIONS

- High- great Severity
- 1–30 days isolation
- Referral to classification committee for review
- Disciplinary transfer
- Removal from specific programs
- Issue warrant for violations of law
- Prison restrictions up to 90 days including: store, library, recreation, group activities, non-privileged packages, telephone use impound personal property, living quarters, visitation
- If offender is in a Transitional Center, these sanctions may also be used: removal from program, assigned extra duty up to 90 days, pass restriction/denial, return to Phase I, extend stay in Phase I, community service, increased drug and alcohol testing, temporary return to prison up to 60 days, assignment of extra duty, mandatory assignment to program, counseling or training, removal of media rights (video visitation and/or electronic email)

## HIGH SEVERITY OFFENSE SANCTIONS

- 1–14 days isolation
- Disciplinary transfer
- Removal from specific programs
- Issue warrant for violations of law
- Prison restrictions up to 60 days (see great severity offense sanctions for a list)
- Impound personal property up to 60 days
- Change in work assignment
- Extra duty – 2 hours per day up to 60 days
- Restitution
- If offender is in a Transitional Center, these sanctions may also be used: see great severity offense sanctions for additional sanctions that may be used at a Transitional Center with a 60-day cap instead of a 90-day cap.
- Temporary return to prison up to 30 days
- Assignment to extra duty
- Mandatory assignment to program, counseling or training
- Increased drug and/or alcohol testing
- Removal of media rights (video visitation and/or electronic email)

## MODERATE SEVERITY OFFENSE SANCTIONS

- Removal from specific programs
- Issue warrant for violations of law
- Prison restrictions up to 30 days (see great severity offense sanctions for a list)
- Impound personal property up to 30 days
- Change in work assignment
- Extra duty – two hours per day up to 30 days
- If offender is in a Transitional Center, these sanctions may also be used: required counseling, probated pass restriction/denial, extra duty – up to 30 days, civilian clothing restriction, increase in reporting contacts, verbal reprimand, return to Phase I, extend stay in Phase I, community service

## LOW SEVERITY OFFENSE SANCTIONS

- Includes all sanctions listed for Moderate Severity Offense Sanctions with 30 day limit on restrictions