

Bellatorax Custody & Transfer Guide

Understanding Custody Levels, Transfers, and Reviews in Florida DOC

Step-by-Step Beginner's Guide for Inmates & Families

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This guide explains Florida DOC custody, transfer, and review procedures under Ch. 33-601 and 33-602, F.A.C. It is for educational purposes only, not legal advice.

Part 1 – Understanding Custody Levels

Custody refers to your security level—not your sentence length. It determines where you are housed, what programs you can access, and the supervision required.

Custody Level	Meaning	Typical Setting
Community	Lowest level; suitable for work release or outside work programs	Community release centers
Minimum	Low risk; limited supervision	Open dorms or job sites
Medium	Moderate supervision and security	Standard institutions
Close	High supervision; escorted movement	Major institutions
Maximum	Highest control; single-cell housing	Close-management or confinement units

Custody Reviews

Custody is reviewed at least once per year or sooner if there is a significant change such as program completion, disciplinary action, or sentence modification.



Average Review and Transfer Time Frames

Process	Typical Time Frame	Notes
Initial Classification	Within 30 days of arrival	Determines first custody level
Regular Custody Review	Every 12 months	May be 6 months for close custody
Special Review	Within 30 days of event	Triggered by incident or major change
Transfer Request Decision	30–90 days	Depends on security level and availability
Appeal or Reconsideration	Within 20 days of denial	Filed via inmate request or grievance

Part 2 – Transfers and Reviews

Transfers are managed by Classification and Population Management. They should be based on program or security needs, not retaliation.

To request a transfer:

1. File a DC6-236 Inmate Request to Classification.
2. State the reason (family hardship, program access, or medical needs).
3. Attach supporting information if possible.
4. Classification forwards it to the Population Management Office for review.
5. You will be notified of approval or denial.

For Families

Families can help by maintaining copies of all requests and responses, writing support letters for transfer hardship, and keeping contact records with Classification or Population Management.

What DOC Can and Can't Do

DOC CAN:

- ✓ Review custody annually or upon change
- ✓ Transfer inmates for valid classification reasons
- ✓ Consider disciplinary history and detainers

DOC CANNOT:

- ✗ Increase custody arbitrarily or for retaliation



- ✗ Deny reviews past required timelines
- ✗ Transfer inmates as punishment without documented reason

Custody/Transfer Tracking Log (Fillable Section)

Date	Action (Review/Transfer)	Facility	Outcome / Response
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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Knowledge is leverage — use it strategically.

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