

CHAPTER 12: SECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

After you get to prison in Louisiana, you will be screened and assigned a security classification. Your security classification, or custody level, will decide where you live, who you can live with, how much supervision you will receive, and work assignments. In addition, there are special kinds of classifications, including protective custody and administrative segregation.

This Chapter summarizes how prisoners are classified in Louisiana and how those classifications can be challenged. Part B explains classification and custody levels. Part C describes the legal and administrative options you have to challenge classification decisions.

This Chapter focuses on the classification system in Louisiana state facilities. Although Chapter 31 of the main *JLM*, “Security Classification and Gang Validation,” also discusses prisoner classification, that chapter is about the *federal* prison system. If you are a Louisiana state prisoner, you should rely on this Chapter. In addition, this Chapter will point out when sections of the main *JLM* may help you.

B. GENERAL SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND CUSTODY LEVELS

After you enter prison in Louisiana, you will be screened and assigned a security classification. This classification will be done according to impartial written procedures.¹ No matter your classification, you must be informed of the reasons for it.² Section 1 discusses custody levels. Section 2 discusses initial classification. Section 3 explains administrative options to appeal your classification. Section 4 provides an overview of constitutional options to appeal your classification.

Prison officials have lots of discretion to assign classifications as they see fit. As will be explained in Part C of this chapter, courts are reluctant to interfere with classification decisions.³ Because of this, you should pay special attention to the administrative options available to you.

1. Custody Levels

In Louisiana prisons, you will be assigned a custody level. This level will decide your type of housing, how much freedom you have to move around the facilities, and what kind of restraints are required when moving you.⁴ There are three primary custody levels:⁵

Maximum Custody: The classification of maximum custody is assigned when there is a need to protect the prisoner, other prisoners, prison staff, the prison itself, or the public. You may be given a maximum custody classification during the intake process. You may also be assigned a maximum custody level if you are temporarily assigned to administrative segregation, disciplinary detention, maximum custody dormitories, working cellblocks, or protective custody. If you are assigned the maximum custody level, you will be very closely

¹ LA. ADMIN CODE tit. 22, pt. III § 3303(A) (2017).

² LA. ADMIN CODE tit. 22, pt. III § 3303(A) (2017).

³ Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472, 482, 115 S. Ct. 2293, 2299, 132 L. Ed. 2d 418, 429 (1995) (“[F]ederal courts ought to afford appropriate deference and flexibility to state officials trying to manage a volatile environment.”) (citations omitted).

⁴ Dep’t. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work 14 (2009), available at https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

⁵ Dep’t. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work 14 (2009), available at https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

supervised. Movement inside the prison may include the use of restraints. Outside the prison your movement will be restrained and/or supervised by an armed officer.⁶

Medium Custody: A classification of medium custody means you will be assigned to a general population dormitory. Your movement outside the prison will be supervised by an armed officer and/or require restraints.⁷

Minimum Custody: A classification of minimum custody means you will be assigned to a general population dormitory. Your movement outside the prison does not require armed supervision and/or restraint, though they may be used.⁸

Most prisons in Louisiana can house prisoners of each custody level.⁹ In Louisiana, the classification process concerns more than just your custody level. It also determines the facility you are placed in and work assignments.

2. Initial Classification

After you enter prison, you will go through intake and an initial classification process. This process will decide which facility you are sent to and an initial custody level. Prison officials are required to complete your initial classification process within 48 hours after you are admitted into their custody,¹⁰ and the entire process should be completed within 72 hours.¹¹ Although the initial classification process is completed within 72 hours, you may still have to remain in intake until a space opens up for you at your assigned prison.¹² Your orientation, where officials provide written and verbal information, should occur within seven days of your arrival, unless the institution that finds medical or behavioral problems prevent this process.¹³ You should receive the information in your own language or translated into your language.¹⁴ During this time, you should be able to access basic services such as the telephone, visitation, mail privileges, legal materials, religious services, medical and mental health services, exercise, and grievance procedures (a process to make a complaint).¹⁵ However, the full intake process can take weeks.¹⁶ If you are placed on death row, however, you are transferred immediately to Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.¹⁷

⁶ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Adult Offenders* (2008), at 5, *available at* <https://www.law.umich.edu/special/policyclearinghouse/Documents/LA%20B-05-001%20Offender%20Rule%20Book%20OCR.pdf> (last visited Feb. 26, 2018).

⁷ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Department Regulation No. B-02-019, Custody Levels* (2013), at 8. This regulation and the rest of the regulations cited in this chapter are not available online. To obtain a copy, you can request a copy from the Legal Affairs department of the Louisiana Department of Corrections. However, you may need to file a Public Records request in order to obtain the regulations. The process for filing a Louisiana Public Records request is explained in Chapter 1, Part C, "Your Right to Information," of this Supplement.

⁸ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Department Regulation No. B-02-019, Custody Levels* (2013), at 8.

⁹ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work* (2009), at 14, *available at* https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

¹⁰ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. III § 3303(C) (2017).

¹¹ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. III § 3303(D) (2017).

¹² Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work* (2009), at 13, *available at* https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

¹³ B-02-016 Reception and Diagnostic Processing (2011), at 6.

¹⁴ B-02-016 Reception and Diagnostic Processing (2011), at 6.

¹⁵ B-02-016 Reception and Diagnostic Processing (2011), at 6.

¹⁶ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work* (2009), at 13, *available at* https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

¹⁷ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work* (2009), at 13, *available at* https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

Initial classification separates men from women, juveniles (kids) from adults, and prisoners who have special problems from the general population.¹⁸

More specifically, you will be classified based on:

- 1) Length of sentence;
- 2) Security risk;
- 3) Special medical or mental health needs;
- 4) Available bed space at corrections facilities; and
- 5) Proximity to family (how close to the prison your family lives).¹⁹

To help classify you based on these reasons, you will have to do some tests.²⁰ Three things help decide your custody level: first, public safety, then safety of staff and prisoners, and lastly, your special needs and the needs of your institution.²¹ Other factors include, but are not limited to, offense, sentence, age, adjustment potential, excessive criminal behavior, escape history, transitional work program eligibility date and observable behavior will also be considered in all classification decisions.²²

Typically, prisoners with a sentence of life imprisonment or a sentence that is longer than 30 years until the earliest possible release date are classified to the Louisiana State Penitentiary.²³ There is only one state prison for women, though women may also be confined in local jails.²⁴ For other prisoners, there are some more prison facilities where you might be sent.

3. Administrative Segregation, Disciplinary Detention, and Protective Custody

There are other kinds of custody that are used in special circumstances. These are the working cellblock, administrative segregation, disciplinary detention/extended lockdown, and protective custody. In a working cellblock, prisoners are assigned the maximum custody level, but are permitted access to work and other prison programs.²⁵ Administrative segregation is for prisoners who pose a security threat to themselves, others, or the facility, or who may be under investigation.²⁶ You may also be placed in administrative segregation if you request protective custody. If you request protective custody, you will be placed in administrative segregation until a disciplinary officer or classification board makes a decision on your request.²⁷ You may be placed in disciplinary detention or extended lockdown if you are found guilty of an infraction.²⁸ Finally, you can be placed in protective custody or extended lockdown if you require protection from other prisoners.²⁹ You must request protective custody in writing. If you are able, you should keep a copy of this request.³⁰

¹⁸ La. Admin. Code. tit. 22, pt. III § 3303(B) (2017).

¹⁹ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work* (2009), at 13, *available at* https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

²⁰ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation B-02-016 Reception and Diagnostic Processing (2011), at 6.

²¹ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation B-02-016 Reception and Diagnostic Processing (2011), at 6.

²² Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation B-02-016 Reception and Diagnostic Processing (2011), at 6.

²³ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work* (2009), at 13, *available at* https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

²⁴ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work* (2009), at 14, *available at* https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2018).

²⁵ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation No. B-02-019, Custody Levels (2013), at 7.

²⁶ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation No. B-02-019, Custody Levels (2013), at 3.

²⁷ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation No. B-02-019, Custody Levels (2013), at 4.

²⁸ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation No. B-02-019, Custody Levels (2013), at 4–5.

²⁹ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation No. B-02-019, Custody Levels (2013), at 5–6.

³⁰ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation No. B-02-019, Custody Levels (2013), at 4.

4. Classification Reviews

Your classification can be changed. Classifications can be changed if your circumstances in prison change. Making classification changes involve some of the same issues as the initial classification. Also, making classification changes will involve anything that has happened since you have been confined. Prisons and jails may have different procedures regarding the reclassification of prisoners, so you should check with your classification officer to learn the exact procedures that are followed at your facility.³¹ Also, if you are placed in a working cellblock, administrative segregation, disciplinary detention/extended lockdown, or protective custody, your status will be reviewed regularly.³² You may also submit a written request for a change in your classification. You should check with your classification officer about the policies at your facility for requesting a classification change or review.

C. CHALLENGING YOUR CLASSIFICATION

Prison officials get great deference when they make and enforce administrative and disciplinary measures. This includes classification. This means that prison officials have a lot of freedom to classify prisoners as they like so long as it follows the law. Both state and federal courts do not often overturn classification decisions made by prison officials.³³ The U.S. Supreme Court has said that prisons should have a lot of freedom to decide classifications because it is necessary to maintain security and preserve internal order.³⁴ For this reason, legal challenges may be very difficult. Administrative challenges are more likely to be helpful, but the likelihood of success in administrative challenges is still low.

1. Legal Challenges

One option to appeal your classification is to file a legal claim. But, courts don't like to change classification decisions. Also, you do not have a right to a particular classification under Louisiana state law.³⁵ However, you do have rights under the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Even though courts do not change a lot of classification decisions, you should still try to challenge your classification decision if you think you have a good case.³⁶

Before you bring a legal claim, you should appeal your classification through administrative remedy procedures. The Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA") requires that you exhaust all your administrative appeals before filing a legal claim.³⁷ For more information on the PLRA, *see* Chapter 14 of the main *JLM*. Administrative procedures are also important because few prisoners succeed in challenging their custody status through court action.

a. Due Process Claims

The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects individuals, including prisoners, from the loss of "life, liberty, or property" at the hands of the government without due process of law.³⁸ You can bring a Due Process claim in state or federal court. In *Sandin v. Conner*, the U.S. Supreme Court created the current way to determine whether conditions of imprisonment (how you're held in prison) violate due

³¹ *See, e.g.*, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, J-0600, Reclassification (2010), *available at* http://www.lafayettesheriff.com/uploads/J_0600_Reclassification.pdf (last visited Mar. 10, 2018).

³² Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., Department Regulation B-02-019, Custody Levels (2013), at 3–6.

³³ *McGruder v. Phelps*, 608 F.2d 1023, 1026 (5th Cir. 1978) ("Prison officials must have broad discretion, free from judicial intervention, in classifying prisoners in terms of their custodial status." (*citing* *Montaye v. Haymes*, 427 U.S. 236, 242, 96 S. Ct. 2543, 2547, 49 L. Ed. 2d 466 (1976))).

³⁴ *Bell v. Wolfish*, 441 U.S. 520, 546, 99 S. Ct. 1861, 1878, 60 L. Ed. 2d. 447 (1979) ("[M]aintaining institutional security and preserving internal order . . . are essential goals that may require limitation . . . of the retained constitutional rights of . . . convicted prisoners.").

³⁵ *McGruder v. Phelps*, 608 F.2d 1023, 1026 (5th Cir. 1978).

³⁶ *McCord v. Maggio*, 910 F.2d 1248, 1249 (5th Cir. 1990) ("This judicial restraint, however, cannot involve the failure to recognize the validity of constitutional claims.") (citations omitted).

³⁷ LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 15:1184(A)(2) (2017).

³⁸ U.S. CONST. amend. XIV, § 1. For a more detailed discussion of "liberty interests" and the degree of due process rights owed to prisoners, *see* Chapter 18 of the main *JLM*, "Your Rights at Prison Disciplinary Proceedings."

process.³⁹ This focuses on the nature of the deprivation (loss) suffered by the prisoner. Be careful when researching this issue. A lot of case law on prisoner classification was decided under an old standard. You must make sure that the cases you research use the current *Sandin* standard, which is described in the next paragraph. The U.S. Supreme Court decided *Sandin* in 1995, so looking for cases after 1995 will be helpful.

In *Sandin*, the Court held that state-created liberty interests “will be generally limited to freedom from restraint which . . . imposes atypical and significant hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life.”⁴⁰ Also, the hardship imposed upon the prisoner must be of “real substance.”⁴¹ This means that you need to show that your classification creates atypical and significant hardship for you. You also need to show that the hardship is substantial. When arguing that your classification is atypical and significant, compare it to what other prisoners have experienced in similar circumstances.⁴² You should think about how your classification is different than others. Differences could be about how long you’ve been classified at a certain level, compared to similar prisoners. Differences could also be about how you’re classified, compared to similar prisoners. Make sure to say how your classification compares to your history, health, and other factors normally considered in classification decisions.⁴³ Explain why the classification imposes a substantial hardship on you.

Prisoners have not been very successful in meeting this standard in either Louisiana state courts or federal courts.⁴⁴ Following *Sandin*, courts don’t like to find that a particular security classification is a deprivation of a constitutional liberty interest.⁴⁵ It is no longer enough to merely show that prison officials did not follow the classification guidelines. Instead, you will have to convince the court that the official’s decision to classify you in a particular way constituted an atypical and significant liberty deprivation.

If you want to make a due process claim, you should file a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (“Section 1983”). Section 1983 is a federal law that protects you from violations of constitutional rights by state actors. It allows you to sue in federal court.⁴⁶ For information on how to file a claim under Section 1983, see Chapter

³⁹ *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 115 S. Ct. 2293, 132 L. Ed. 2d 418 (1995) (finding no liberty interest in prisoner’s administrative segregation absent atypical, significant deprivation).

⁴⁰ *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 484, 115 S. Ct. 2293, 2300, 132 L. Ed. 2d 418, 430 (1995).

⁴¹ *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 480, 115 S. Ct. 2293, 2298, 132 L. Ed. 2d 418, 427 (1995). See, e.g., *Harper v. Showers*, 174 F.3d 716, 719 (5th Cir. 1999) (finding that a due process claim was meritless because the prisoner had no protectable interest in custodial classification and did not allege physical injury in claim for damages); *Martin v. Scott*, 156 F.3d 578, 580 (5th Cir. 1998) (holding under ordinary circumstances administrative segregation will never be grounds for a constitutional claim because it does not constitute deprivation of a constitutional liberty interest).

⁴² See *Giles v Cain*, 762 So.2d 734, 739 (La. Ct. App. 1st Cir. 2000) (holding that prisoner’s confinement in extended lockdown was not atypical or significant, in part because there was no showing it differed from what other prisoners experienced in similar circumstances).

⁴³ See *Giles v Cain*, 762 So.2d 734, 739 (La. Ct. App. 1st Cir. 2000).

⁴⁴ See, e.g., *Williams v. Dep’t. of Public Safety and Corr.*, 2011 WL 2981196, at *1, (La. Ct. App. 1st Cir. 2011) (“a change of custody status is not atypical nor a significant hardship in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life”); *Parker v. LeBlanc*, 845 So.2d 445, 446 (La. Ct. App. 1st Cir. 2003) (“[C]hange in custody status from medium to maximum and a thirty-day confinement was not atypical or a significant hardship in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life”); *Marquez v. Dep’t of Corr.*, 2012 WL 2061150, at *2, (La. Ct. App. 1st Cir. 2012) (citing *Parker v. LeBlanc*, 845 So.2d 445 (La. Ct. App. 1st Cir. 2003)) (holding that transfer to another cell block did not impose an atypical and significant hardship on the prisoner); *Thomas v. Cain*, 2008 WL 4287549, at *2, (La. Ct. App. 1st Cir. 2008) (“The imposition of the penalty of a change in security from minimum to medium within a maximum security prison, was not atypical or a significant hardship in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life.”).

⁴⁵ See, e.g., *Wilkerson v. Stalder*, 329 F.3d 431, 435–436 (5th Cir. 2003) (“Generally, courts are not concerned with a prisoner’s initial classification level based on his criminal history before his incarceration. This circuit has continued to hold post-*Sandin* that an inmate has no protectable liberty interest in his classification.”). *Lee v. Karriker*, 383 F. App’x. 491, 492, 2010 U.S. App. LEXIS 13011 (5th Cir. 2010) (finding that the placement of a “security precaution designator” on prisoner’s file without a disciplinary hearing does not implicate the deprivation of a constitutional right); *Pichardo v. Kinker*, 73 F.3d 612, 613, 1996 U.S. App. LEXIS 1498 (5th Cir. 1996) (holding that, absent extraordinary circumstances, placement in administrative segregation will never be a ground for a constitutional claim); *Luken v. Scott*, 71 F.3d 192, 193, 1995 U.S. App. LEXIS 36348 (5th Cir. 1995) (holding that administrative segregation, resulting in a lost opportunity to earn good-time credits, does not represent a deprivation of a constitutionally cognizable liberty interest).

⁴⁶ See, e.g., *Monroe v. Pape*, 365 U.S. 167, 204, 81 S. Ct. 473, 493, 5 L. Ed. 2d 492, (1961) (applying § 1983 to illegal search of civilian home and detention of citizen by police).

16 of the main *JLM*, “Using 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 to Obtain Relief from Violations of Federal Law.” For more information on filing a legal claim after pursuing administrative remedies, see Chapter 9 of the *Louisiana State Supplement* on grievance procedures and administrative remedy procedures.

2. Administrative Options

The primary way of challenging a classification decision is through the Administrative Remedy Procedure (“ARP”).⁴⁷ The ARP and other grievance procedures should have been explained to you when you entered prison.⁴⁸ You may also contact your classification officer for assistance on how to use the ARP. Before going to court, you first should use the ARP to challenge a classification decision. This is because courts are unlikely to change a classification decision. Also, you must exhaust administrative remedies before you can file a legal claim.⁴⁹ For more information on the ARP and grievance procedures, see Chapter 9 of the *Louisiana State Supplement*.

The ARP’s purpose is to allow for a formal review of any complaint relating to your incarceration, including classification decisions.⁵⁰ After you are assigned a classification, you can appeal the decision through the ARP within 90 days.⁵¹ If the decision from the ARP is not what you want, you may appeal the ARP decision. If you do not like the decision of the ARP appeal, you may then file a claim in state or federal court.

To start the ARP process, you must write a letter to the warden requesting ARP (or use a form if there is one available) within 90 days of getting the classification decision.⁵² In this request, you should explain the problem with the classification decision you are appealing. Your request will be screened. Requests are screened to make sure they meet certain requirements, including that you followed proper procedure.⁵³ The warden will have 40 days to respond to you.⁵⁴ If you do not like this decision, you may appeal directly to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.⁵⁵ You have to do this within 5 days of getting the warden’s decision.⁵⁶ The secretary will then have 45 days to respond to you.⁵⁷ If you do not like the secretary’s response to you, then you may file a claim in court within 30 days.⁵⁸ If you are able, you should keep copies of your letters and decisions related to the ARP.

It may be difficult to successfully challenge a classification decision. This should not stop you from appealing a classification decision, but it means that you should make sure to follow procedure as closely as possible and make the best case you can.

D. GANG AFFILIATION AND CLASSIFICATION

Unlike some other states, Louisiana does not have a formal process for classifying and then segregating suspected gang members from the rest of the prison population. However, gang affiliations can be a part of the classification process. This includes when you get a custody level. This is because the

⁴⁷ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325 (2017).

⁴⁸ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(F)(3)(a)(i)(a) (2017).

⁴⁹ LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 15:1184(A)(2) (2017).

⁵⁰ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(D) (2017).

⁵¹ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(G)(1) (2017).

⁵² LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(G)(1) (2017).

⁵³ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(I)(1) (2017).

⁵⁴ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(J)(1)(a)(ii) (2017).

⁵⁵ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(J)(1)(b)(i) (2017).

⁵⁶ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(J)(1)(b)(i) (2017).

⁵⁷ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(J)(1)(b)(ii) (2017).

⁵⁸ LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 22, pt. I, § 325(J)(1)(b)(iv) (2017); LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 15:1177(A) (2017).

classification process considers the security risk you pose to public safety, prison staff, and other prisoners.⁵⁹ Additionally, prisons and jails may assess gang affiliation to take additional security precautions.⁶⁰

E. CONCLUSION

Your security classification is important because it decides where you can live and what kind of supervision you have in prison. Prison officials usually get a lot of freedom to decide how you will be classified. Officials make their classification decisions because of many different reasons. You can still challenge your classification by administrative means and in court. To challenge your classification, you first must use administrative remedy procedures even if you want to file a legal claim in court. Administrative remedy procedures may also offer a better chance of success in challenging classification decisions.

⁵⁹ Dep't. of Pub. Safety and Corr., *Inside the System: How Inmates Live and Work 13* (2009), *available at* https://www.webcitation.org/6Bdg2h6fj?url=http://www.corrections.state.la.us/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Time_in_Prison11.pdf (last visited Jan. 18, 2018).

⁶⁰ *See, e.g.*, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, *J-4700, Security Threat Groups* (2010), *available at* http://www.lafayettesheriff.com/uploads/J_4700_SecurityThreatGroups.pdf (last visited Jan. 18, 2018).