



Mental Health of Prisoners and Probationers

RECOMMENDATION CM/REC(2025)2 BY THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

SUMMARY PRESENTATION

DR. RONALD GRAMIGNA

Background & Legal Framework

- ▶ Based on European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), CPT, Biomedicine Convention.
- ▶ Builds upon previous recommendations (2004, 2006, 2010, 2017, 2008).
- ▶ Focus: dignity, human rights, and equivalence of care in penal systems.

Scope & Definitions

- ▶ Applies to adult prisoners and probationers.
- ▶ Children under 18: special provisions apply.
- ▶ Definitions:
 - ▶ - Prisoners = incarcerated individuals (European Prison Rules)
 - ▶ - Probationers = under supervision (Probation Rules)
 - ▶ - Mental disorder = clinically significant disturbances

General Principles

- ▶ Timely mental health care with respect for dignity.
- ▶ Gender and cultural sensitivity in services.
- ▶ Care equivalent to general population.
- ▶ Clear information on access to services.
- ▶ No solitary confinement for mental health reasons.

Promoting & Protecting Mental Health

- ▶ Supportive, informed environment.
- ▶ Mental health education and early access to services.
- ▶ Social determinants addressed.
- ▶ Physical activity, arts, prosocial support encouraged.
- ▶ Protective measures: substance use, crisis services, systemic reforms.

Managing Mental Disorders

- ▶ Mandatory screening at entry/transition points.
- ▶ Comprehensive mental health assessments.
- ▶ Multidisciplinary, consent-based treatment.
- ▶ Inclusion of substance abuse treatment and harm reduction.
- ▶ Therapeutic response to mental health crises.

Staff, Training, and Data

- ▶ Support staff dealing with mental health duties.
- ▶ Training on mental health care and crisis response.
- ▶ Collect anonymized data on prevalence, suicide, self-harm.
- ▶ Encourage research and evidence-based policy development.