

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CORRECTIONS**

**THE COMMISSIONER**

**Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking**

**Contact Visitation for Incarcerated Persons**

**N.J.A.C. 10A:1-2.2 and 10A:31-3.14**

Petitioner: The Legal Advocacy Project of Unitarian Universalist FaithAction of New Jersey on behalf of the Faith Action Criminal Justice Reform Taskforce.

**Take notice** that on October 22, 2018, the New Jersey Department of Corrections (Department) received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner requesting that the Department adopt amendments to the rules governing contact visitation and suggests a definition of video visitation. Specifically, petitioner requests that N.J.A.C. 10A:1-2.2, Definitions, be amended to include a new definition for video visitation and N.J.A.C. 10A:31-3.14 be amended to add new language stating that video visitation may be offered in conjunction with contact and non-contact visits but not as a replacement for them. The petitioner states that there “is a growing trend among certain counties in New Jersey to execute contracts with vendors that provide Internet-based video visitation” services for a per minute fee. The petitioner purports that “there is a possibility that contact visitation will be eliminated in favor of the more profitable video visitation alternative,” which would be detrimental to inmate emotional and mental health.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2, the Department shall subsequently mail to the

petitioner and file with the Office of Administrative Law, a notice of action on the petition.