



AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION

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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

## American Jail Association Resolution Use of the Term "Guard"

- WHEREAS,** such Associations as the American Jail Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the American Correctional Association have enacted resolutions regarding the use of inappropriate terms to describe the men and women who supervise the prisoners in our Nation's jails and prisons, and
- WHEREAS,** newspaper editors and writers for the television media still use the term "Guard" to describe people employed in local, State, and Federal correctional institutions; therefore, we now urge that all jail administrators, correctional staff, sheriffs, and other sympathetic people undertake to counter this practice and individually go on record in writing opposing the use of the term "Guard." It is suggested that the mail and contact by telephone begin whenever a journalist, reporter, feature writer, editor, or publisher uses "Guard" in describing the work of correctional staff and that the terms "Correctional Officer" or "Detention Officer" be substituted instead.

*Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors in May 1985.  
Revised on May 19, 1993.  
Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008.*