

Prison and Probation Centre for Southeastern Finland

Prison rules for Mikkeli Prison

Entry into force on 3 February 2025

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1 § General

These prison rules contain more specific regulations than the Imprisonment Act and the Remand Imprisonment Act and the provisions and regulations issued under the Acts on the movement within the prison area and locking of the premises, wards, arrangements related to visits, telephone use and free time activities, possession of property, and other corresponding individual issues related to the maintenance of prison order and arrangement of activities in the prison.

Prisoners must comply with the prison rules. A prisoner may be imposed a disciplinary punishment for violating the prison rules provided that the prison rules expressly state that the violation of the rule may be punishable by a disciplinary punishment.

A prisoner may also be imposed a disciplinary punishment if the prisoner fails to obey a request or order issued by an official of the Prison and Probation Service within the official's authority to maintain prison order and security.

2 § Moving within the prison area

Prisoners may move and spend time in their appointed activity and workplace, in their own accommodation ward, and in areas appointed for outdoor exercise, meals, and free time activities at times stated in the daily schedule of the ward.

Moving elsewhere in the prison or its area without a permission is forbidden. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating this rule.

3 § Clothing in the prison area

Prisoners must be properly dressed within the prison area. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating this rule.

4 § Locking of the premises and checking the number of prisoners

The cell doors are locked during the times determined in the daily schedule.

When the ward is locked, prisoners must be in their own cells or in other location marked in the checklist of prisoners. The checking of the number of prisoners has to be carried out by

opening the cell door so that the condition and state of health of each prisoner living in the cell can be visually observed. If necessary, the staff will discuss with the prisoners separately.

During the checking of the number of prisoners, each prisoner has to stand up facing the staff. Exceptions to this may only be made if the prisoner's state of health prevents the prisoner from standing up. The times, when the number of prisoners is checked, are specified in the daily schedule.

If the accommodation ward is open, when the number of prisoners is checked, the prisoners have to go to the corridor of the accommodation ward in a place specified by the staff.

Opening or closing the safety latches on the cell doors is forbidden.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for violating these rules.

5 § Work and free time activities

The work activities of the prison include, among others, woodwork, maintenance of clothes, various real estate maintenance tasks and cleaning. Some work activities may include related studies.

The prison arranges education preparing for a qualification for prisoner who have not completed any upper secondary qualification after primary and lower secondary education. Basic education studies can be completed as distance learning. In individual cases, distance learning may also be used for other studies.

Individual and group work to promote motivation and change are based on, among others, various activity programmes.

Information on the free time activities, such as sports, music, library and religious activities, are in the daily schedule and the free time schedules. Prisoners may use the library services at least once a week at the times specified in the daily schedule.

6 § Visiting the prison canteen

The precise times for visiting the prison canteen are in the daily schedule of the ward.

If prisoners do not have an opportunity to go to the prison canteen themselves, they can make their purchases by using the order list and the official handling the matter delivers the ordered goods to them. Prisoners must pay with their prepaid cards via a payment terminal.

Prisoners who are imposed precautionary measures and disciplinary punishments and prisoners who are segregated from other prisoners use an order form to make their purchases and an official handling the matter delivers the purchases to them.

7 § Visits

7.1 § Supervised visits

Permission for a visit has to be applied for before reserving a visit. Prisoners can apply for visits by filling in a separate form. An application for a visit has to be left by 8.15 on Thursday. Exceptions concerning the time are informed separately.

Prisoners may have only one visit per day.

Prisoners are obligated to inform their visitors of the visiting time. The visitors have to arrive and report to the prison 15 minutes before the reserved visiting time. A visit may be denied if the visitor is late.

Supervised visits are arranged on Saturdays between 12.00 and 14.45. A visit lasts 45 minutes. Visits are not arranged on Christmas Eve, Midsummer Eve or public holidays.

Prisoners can apply for visits by filling in a separate form. An application for a visit has to be left by 8.15 on Thursday. Exceptions concerning the time are informed separately.

Prisoners may have only one visit per day.

Prisoners are obligated to inform their visitors of the visiting time. The visitors have to arrive and report to the prison 15 minutes before the reserved visiting time. A visit may be denied if the visitor is late.

Prisoners can be visited by their spouse and children belonging to the same household or at most two (2) other visitors.

The visitor and the prisoner are not allowed to have any means to take notes or transmit written messages without the permission of the staff. The prisoner and the visitor may not touch each other during the visit.

If a prisoner violates the terms of a visit laid down in the prison rules, a disciplinary punishment may be imposed on the prisoner.

7.2 § Visits by a child

Prisoners may be granted permission to receive a visit from a child under 15 years of age, for instance, in the sports hall if the visit is necessary to maintain contact between the prisoner and the child and the visit is not against the best interests of the child. A visit that lasts for one hour may also be arranged on weekdays and it is supervised. Prisoners can apply for a visit by a child by filling in a form they can get from a prison officer of their ward.

7.3 § Unsupervised visits

Unsupervised family visits are meant for maintaining family relations and they can be applied for by filling a separate form and giving it to a prison officer of the ward.

The prison has one room for unsupervised family visits. The visit can last three (3) hours at a time. Unsupervised visits are arranged on Saturdays and Sundays at 9.00–12.00 and 12.30–15.30 and on Wednesdays at 12.30–15.30. Based on individual consideration, they may be arranged at other times, too. Exceptions concerning the visiting times are informed separately.

7.4 § Communication via video connection

Video calls (Skype) can be used to maintain social relations with people outside the prison. A video call is possible once a week for a maximum of 30 minutes at a time and it can also be arranged in the evening. The prison officers of the accommodation ward show how to use the service. Further instructions are in the information leaflet for prisoners. Permission has to be applied for in writing by filling in a specific form for each time separately.

A prisoner, whose family members live abroad or for some other corresponding reason cannot visit the prisoner in prison, may be granted a maximum of a 60-minute video call once a week.

Prisoners are not allowed to touch the devices, the connection is opened and closed by a prison officer.

Prisoners are not allowed to have any means to take notes at hand or transmit written messages without the permission of the staff.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for violating this rule.

7.5 § Receiving goods during visits

A visitor may bring a minor amount of goods to the prisoner in connection with a visit but not, however, during the actual visit.

Goods meant for a prisoner have to be handed over to the staff for inspection before they are given to the prisoner.

A small amount is about one normal plastic shopping bag (30 litres) of goods. When assessing the quality and quantity of the property to be received, the rules on the possession of property referred to in these prison rules (§ 11) and the limitations of the storage facilities are taken into consideration.

8 § Use of telephone

Prisoners can use the telephones at the wards daily when the cells are unlocked. The number of calls is limited by the number of available telephone devices and the time available according to the daily schedule. Based on individual consideration, prisoners may also be allowed to make telephone calls at other times than those specified in these prison rules. Prisoners in travel cell or isolation wards can make telephone calls by filling in the general inquiry form or asking a prison officer of the ward directly.

All prisoners receive telephone codes that are for personal use only. The codes may not be given to the use of another person.

A prerequisite for the use of the telephone is that the prisoner tells the staff the numbers and the names of the people in advance by using the form reserved for this purpose. There can be no more than 20 numbers, which are then stored in the telephone system.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner if the prisoner gives incorrect information about the telephone numbers or the receivers of the calls, gives the personal codes to the use of another person, or uses the personal codes of another person.

9 § Sending post

If a prisoner tries to carry or gives another prisoner for the purpose of carrying a letter or other postal item or a message pass the inspection of the prison post, the prisoner may be imposed to disciplinary punishment.

10 § Smoking and cleanliness

Smoking and the possession of tobacco products, smoking accessories and lighting devices is prohibited except during outdoor exercise. Smoking is possible once a day during outdoor exercise. At other times, including during participation in activities, smoking is prohibited. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for violating this rule. The smoking products of each prisoner are kept separately in a locked storage meant for that. Lighting devices for cigarettes are in the outdoor areas. Prisoners are not allowed to have their own lighting devices in their possession.

The order of the furniture in the cell cannot be changed without the permission of an official of the Prison and Probation Service. All goods must be stored in the cabinets and other storage places.

Pictures, posters, and other objects may only be attached to the notice board hung on the wall in the cell.

Electrical devices must be switched off when leaving the cell. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating these rules.

11 § Possession of property

11.1 § Objects and substances the possession of which may be denied

According to chapter 9, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 1 of the Imprisonment Act (chapter 5, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 1 of the Remand Imprisonment Act), the possession of an object or substance may be denied if it poses a threat to the safety of a

person. Besides firearms, edged weapons, blunt instruments, explosives and gas sprays, such objects and substances include also, among others, poisons and aerosol products with propellant gas. In addition, substances posing a threat include chemical compounds that can be used to make explosives, such as hair dyes containing hydrogen peroxide.

According to chapter 9, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 2 of the Imprisonment Act (chapter 5, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 2 of the Remand Imprisonment Act), the possession of an object or substance may be denied if it is especially suited for damaging property. These include, among others, tools suitable for damaging property.

According to chapter 9, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 3 of the Imprisonment Act (chapter 5, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 3 of the Remand Imprisonment Act), the possession of an object or substance may be denied if the possession of it is, when taking into account the conditions and the level of supervision in the prison or a prison ward, detrimental to general prison order. These include, among others, the following:

1. Devices that are suitable for recording information. These include, among others, computers, cameras, video cameras, MP3 players, and some game consoles. Separate memory devices and devices containing hard drives are prohibited.
2. Devices that enable communication via electronic communication. These include, among others, computers, mobile phones, and some game consoles. Objects used for establishing electronic connection and objects the use of which is closely connected to the devices used for electronic communication are also prohibited.
3. Devices that are suitable for intercepting and monitoring the radio traffic of authorities or otherwise observing the activities of authorities. These include, among others, radiotelephones and radio traffic detectors. Binoculars and other optical devices suitable for observation are also forbidden.
4. Objects that can cause a cleanliness, health, or fire hazard. These include, among others, tattoo equipment, animals, plants and candles.
5. Objects that are otherwise detrimental to the public order of the prison. These include, among others, objects used for fighting and escaping, replica weapons, and objects bearing the symbols of criminal organisations and groups.

According to chapter 9, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 4 of the Imprisonment Act (chapter 5, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 4 of the Remand Imprisonment Act), the

possession of an object or substance may be denied if it cannot be inspected without unreasonable difficulty or without damaging it. These include, among others, hygiene and cosmetics products, foodstuffs, and tobacco products that are brought from outside the prison. If prisoners take these products with them outside the prison, the products will not be given back into their possession when they return to the prison. The structure of the objects that are given into the possession of prisoners must be such that they are not suitable for concealing prohibited objects or substances.

According to chapter 9, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 5 of the Imprisonment Act (chapter 5, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 5 of the Remand Imprisonment Act), the possession of an object or substance may be denied if it is used as a means of commission of an offence or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that it will be used as such. This may refer to, for instance, a situation where a prisoner uses a typewriter, which is in the prisoner's possession, to falsify documents or commit frauds.

According to chapter 9, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 6 of the Imprisonment Act (chapter 5, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 6 of the Remand Imprisonment Act), the possession of an object or substance may be denied if the prison has acquired a corresponding object for the use of the prisoner. These include, among others, objects already belonging to the furnishing of the accommodation room and other objects acquired by the prison for the use of prisoners if the prisoner has a real opportunity to use the object.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner if the aforementioned objects or substances are found in the prisoner's possession.

11.2 § Other factors influencing the possession of objects or substances

Prisoners are only allowed to have a reasonable amount of private property in their possession. The prerequisites for the possession of an electrical device are that the device is type approved (CE marking), it is intact and it has an identification number.

The prerequisites for the possession of an electrical device are that the device is type approved (CE marking), it is intact and it has an identification number.

The seals attached to the device during an inspection may not be removed or damaged. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for removing or damaging the seals.

Modifying authorised objects so that they are more suitable for being used for acts of violence is prohibited. This refers to, for example, making an article suitable as a blunt weapon or sharpening a toothbrush. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner if such objects are found in the prisoner's possession.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner if the prisoner tries to bring unauthorised goods to a prison and avoid an inspection. A maximum of 100 copies of all recordings (including CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray discs and game console games), 10 copies of books, and 20 copies of magazines are given into possession at a time.

The rules on the possession of property do not apply to objects and substances that have been given in the possession of a prisoner before the prison rules entered into force. If a prisoner is transferred to another prison, the prison rules in force there at the time of the transfer are applied.

12 § Prison wards

Mikkeli Prison has the follow wards:

- (RP = ward for remand prisoners, SP = ward for sentenced prisoners)
- L 1 Travel cell ward and isolation ward
- L 2–1 SP 22 prisoner places
- L 2–2 RP (in activities) 9 prisoner places
- L 3–3 RP + SP (in activities) 23 prisoner places
- L 3–4 RP (segregated to secure criminal investigation) 7(-13) prisoner places
- E 1–3 RP/SP 5 prisoner places
- E 1–5 RP/SP 5 prisoner places
- E 2–3 RP (segregated to secure criminal investigation) 5 prisoner places
- E 2–4 RP (segregated to secure criminal investigation) 4 prisoner places
- E 2–5 RP (segregated to secure criminal investigation) 5 prisoner places
- E 3–5 RP (in activities) 5 prisoner places
- E 3–6 RP 4 prisoner places
- E 3–6 RP 5 prisoner places
- E 4–1 SP (in activities, contract ward) 5 prisoner places
- E 4–2 SP (in activities, contract ward) 5 prisoner places

13 § Substance use and medication

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for manipulating or attempting to manipulate a substance use test.

Prisoners are not allowed to use or possess medication without the authorisation of a physician of the Health Care Services for Prisoners.

Medication must be kept in the pill dispensers or bags meant for them or other original packaging. Unused medication must be returned. Prisoners are not allowed to give medication prescribed to them to other prisoners.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating these rules.

14 § Entry into force

These prison rules enter into force on 3 February 2025 and repeal the prison rules that entered into force on 15 July 2024.

Helsinki, 24 January 2025

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