

# Prison and Probation Centre for Central Finland

## Prison rules for Vaasa Prison

Entry into force on 16 March 2026

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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. Prisoners 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.

Prisoners may also be imposed a disciplinary punishment if they fail 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 dressed appropriately in the prison area. In workplaces and other activities, the dining room, and other premises, prisoners must follow the dress code issued by the prison staff or displayed in the relevant area.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating this rule.

## **4 § Locking procedures and headcounts**

Cell doors are locked at the times specified in the daily schedule.

When the ward is being locked, prisoners must be in their own cells, at the cell door, or in another location designated for the headcount. The headcount is conducted by opening the cell door so that the condition and state of health of each prisoner in the cell can be visually observed. If necessary, the staff will discuss with the prisoners separately.

During headcounts, prisoners must stand up facing the staff carrying out the headcount. Exceptions to this may only be made if the prisoners' state of health prevents them from standing up. The times of headcounts are specified in the daily schedule. If necessary, headcounts may be conducted at any time of day.

If the accommodation ward is open at the time of the headcount, the prisoners must move to a place in the corridor of the accommodation ward indicated by the staff for the duration of the headcount.

Prisoners must close and lock their cell door when leaving their cell. Opening or closing the security latches on the cell doors is prohibited.

If prisoners are not in their own cell or other place designated for the headcount without an acceptable reason when the ward is being locked, they may be imposed a disciplinary punishment.

## **5 § Work and free time activities**

Prisoners must comply with the daily schedule of the prison. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners for acting against this rule.

The prison arranges work in packing, the paint shop, or elsewhere in the building for activities. In addition, prisoners can work in the kitchen, reception ward or cleaning.

While in prison, prisoners can complete basic education and general upper secondary education studies and vocational upper secondary qualification in metalwork.

The prison offers substance rehabilitation, programmes, and various activities preparing for freedom.

Free time activities, such as physical exercise, meetings with the Finnish Red Cross, and religious events, are arranged in accordance with a weekly programme.

Prisoners are arranged an opportunity to use the library services of the prison every week. More precise times for using the library are in the daily schedule of the ward and possible changes will be informed separately.

## **6 § Visiting the prison canteen**

Prisoners can visit the prison canteen once a week according to the daily schedule of the ward. Prisoners must plan in advance what items they want to purchase and pay for them using their payment card at the payment terminal.

If prisoners do not have an opportunity to go 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 pay with their payment cards at the payment terminal.

Prisoners, who are in isolation under observation for safety purposes or for the purposes of detecting prohibited substances, are not allowed to go to the prison canteen to make purchases themselves. Purchases are made on a case-by-case basis, for example by using an order list. The official handling the matter delivers the ordered goods to the prisoner as agreed separately.

## **7 § Visits**

### **7.1 § Supervised visits**

Male prisoners' visits are arranged on Saturdays at 12.00–12.45, 13.00–13.45 and 14.00–14.45. Visits are not arranged on Christmas Eve, Midsummer Eve or public holidays. Visits can also be arranged at other times based on individual consideration due to, for instance, restrictions of communications. Prisoners must reserve a visiting time from a senior prison official of the accommodation ward in advance by 18.00 on the

Thursday preceding the weekend. The visiting time is determined by the order of application. Prisoners must inform their visitors of the visiting time.

Prisoners may be visited by their spouse and children belonging to the same household or at most two (2) other visitors. Visitors must arrive on time; visitors who are late will not be allowed in.

### **Conditions of visits:**

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 meeting 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 in premises suitable for this, 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. Video communication is supervised.

An application form can be obtained from a senior instructor to whom it is also returned. Supervised visits by a child are arranged on Sundays at 12.00–12.45 and 13.00–13.45. Other visiting times may be considered in individual situations if it is in the best interests of the child.

### **7.3 § Unsupervised visits**

An application form for an unsupervised visit can be obtained from a senior instructor or the personal official to whom it is also returned.

The visiting times are at 16.15–18.30 on Tuesdays, 12.30–15.30 on Thursdays, and 10.30–16.00 on Saturdays and Sundays.

#### **7.4 § Communication via video connection**

Prisoners may be given permission to communicate with their relatives or other close people by using a computer meant for prisoners. Permission must be applied for in writing by filling in a specific form for each time separately. Communication via video connection is arranged at a time agreed with an instructor.

Permission may be granted once a week for 15, 30 or 45 minutes at a time according to the wish of the prisoner. A prisoner, whose family members live abroad or for some other corresponding reason cannot visit the prisoner in prison, may be granted a longer (one hour) communication once a week.

During communication via video connection, the prisoner is not allowed to have any means to take notes or transmit written messages in their possession without the permission of the staff. Prisoners are not allowed to touch the devices; the staff opens and closes the connection.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for violating this rule and for communicating or attempting to communicate with a person not included in the decision on permission.

#### **7.5 § Receiving goods during visits**

Prisoners may receive a small amount of personal property in connection with a visit but not during a visit. A small amount is about one normal plastic shopping bag (30 litres) of goods, but there can only be two (2) magazines or books in total. The goods must be handed over to the prison staff for inspection. 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 (§ 10), the limitations of the storage facilities and the amount of property already in the possession of the prisoner or in storage are taken into consideration.

The staff inspects the goods to be given to the prisoners. The quantity and quality of the goods must be such that the staff can inspect them without breaking them.

Prisoners are allowed to give goods to their visitors. The goods to be given must be specified in advance at the reception ward and signed by the visitor as received.

The reception and giving of goods always happen under the supervision of the prison staff.

Prisoners may have a reasonable amount of goods in their possession and in storage taking into account the storage facilities of the prison, the cleanliness of the cell and fire safety.

## **8 § Use of telephone**

The telephones at the wards are available daily during the times specified in section 12 § Prison wards of these prison rules. 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.

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 meant 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**

An outgoing letter must include the name of the sender, the name and address of the receiver and a stamp.

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 inside the prison is prohibited. Tobacco products, smoking accessories and lighting devices are not given into the possession of prisoners inside prison. The possession of tobacco products and lighting devices is prohibited except during outdoor exercise.

The tobacco products, smoking accessories and lighting devices of the prisoners are stored in the possession of the prison staff in separate lockers reserved for them. Smoking is possible once a day during outdoor exercise. At other times, including when participating in activities, smoking is prohibited.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for violating the aforementioned rules related to smoking. Smoking accessories found in a prisoner's possession without permission will be placed among the prisoner's civilian belongings.

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 accommodation room. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners for attaching objects elsewhere in the accommodation room.

Electrical devices must be switched off when leaving the cell.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners 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 means. 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 they have a real opportunity to use the object.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners if the aforementioned objects or substances are found in their 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 amount of utility articles given into their possession must be such that they can be stored in the storage spaces of the cell in places reserved for them.

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 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 prisoners if such objects are found in their possession.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners if they try to bring unauthorised goods in prison and avoid an inspection.

A maximum of 100 copies of all recordings (including CD, DVD, Blu-ray 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 prisoners before the prison rules entered into force. If prisoners are transferred to another prison, the prison rules in force there at the time of the transfer are applied.

## **12 § Prison wards**

### **Travel cell ward, 1st floor:**

Prisoners are given only necessary personal goods into their possession. The telephone can be used daily at 07.00–16.00. The time must be arranged with a prison officer. The travel cell for female prisoners is located in the prison's new building.

### **Closed ward, 2nd floor:**

It is located at the south end of the 2nd floor. The ward has one cell where a prisoner who is imposed a disciplinary punishment can be placed. The other cells are meant for remand prisoners who are accommodated separately under the Coercive Measures Act. Giving property into prisoners' possession may be restricted depending on the grounds of the isolation. The telephone can be used on weekdays at 07.00–15.00 and on Saturdays and Sundays at 08.00–15.00 when the cells are open. However, the time must be agreed separately with a prison officer.

**Isolation ward:**

It is located at the north end of the 2nd floor next to the closed ward. The cells of the ward may temporarily be used as travel cells if the actual travel cells are fully populated or prisoners in a travel cell must be kept separate. Giving property into prisoners' possession may be restricted depending on the grounds of the isolation. The use of the telephone must be agreed separately with a prison officer.

**Accommodation ward, 3rd floor (north end):**

The ward is meant for remand prisoners. The telephone can be used on weekdays at 7.00–18.00 and on Saturdays and Sundays at 8.00–15.00 when the cells are open.

**Accommodation ward, 3rd floor (south end):**

The ward is meant for prisoners who have just arrived at the prison or for remand prisoners whose status has changed to sentenced prisoners. The telephone can be used on weekdays at 7.00–18.00 and on Saturdays and Sundays at 8.00–15.00 when the cells are open.

**Closed ward, 3rd floor (west end):**

The ward is meant for remand prisoners. The telephone can be used on weekdays at 7.00–18.00 and on Saturdays and Sundays at 8.00–15.00 when the cells are open.

If there is no need for a second ward for remand prisoners. or due to prison overcrowding or other exceptional circumstances, the ward may also be used for other accommodation purposes, such as a ward for prisoners, who must be accommodated separately under the Coercive Measures Act.

**Accommodation ward, 4th floor (north end):**

The ward is a contract ward. The telephone can be used on weekdays at 7.00–19.00 and on Saturdays and Sundays at 8.00–15.00 when the cells are open.

**Accommodation ward, 4th floor (south end):**

The ward is meant for sentenced prisoners. The telephone can be used on weekdays at 7.00–19.00 and on Saturdays and Sundays at 8.00–15.00 when the cells are open.

The call times at lunch time at 11.00–12.00 are reserved for prisoners, who work or take part in other activities.

**Accommodation ward, 4th floor (west end):**

The telephone can be used on weekdays at 07.00–19.00 and on Saturdays and Sundays at 08.00–15.00.

The call times at lunch time at 11.00–12.00 are reserved for prisoners, who work or take part in other activities.

**Ward in new building:**

The ward is meant for prisoners accommodated separately at their own request. The telephone can be used when the ward is open or at times agreed separately with a prison officer.

The Swedish-speaking ward can function in connection with any ward when needed.

**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 pill dispensers and bags meant for them or other original packaging and 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 16 March 2026 and repeal the prison rules that entered into force on 3 February 2025.

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