

Prison and Probation Centre for Southwestern Finland

Prison rules for Huittinen Prison

Entry into force on 15 December 2025

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1 § General

These prison rules contain more specific regulations than the Imprisonment Act and the provisions and regulations issued under the Act 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 have to 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.

There is a separate area in the backyard of the accommodation ward where prisoners can sunbathe without a shirt.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating this rule.

4 § Checking the number of prisoners

The number of prisoners is checked daily at times stated in the daily schedule. If necessary, the number of prisoners can be checked at any time of the day. The checking of the number of prisoners is announced through the public address system.

Prisoners must be in their own cells when the number of prisoners is being checked.

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 prisoners' state of health prevents them from standing up. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating this rule.

If prisoners are not present in their cells without an acceptable reason when the number of prisoners is checked, a disciplinary punishment may be imposed on them.

5 § Work and free time activities / prison activities

Prisoners have to 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 and other activities that support the goals of the sentence plans and improve prisoners' abilities and readiness to work. Prisoners can study or participate in group or individual rehabilitation. Prisoners may be given permission to carry out open prison work or civilian work, or study outside the prison.

Religious activities are arranged every week according to a separate weekly schedule.

In their free time, prisoners can go outdoors, exercise or spend time in the recreational facilities.

The prison has a library, which prisoners can use weekly at times specified in the daily schedule of the prison.

6 § Procuring goods

Prisoners can buy tobacco, foodstuffs and other goods suitable for personal use, such as hygiene products, from the online store run by Leijona Catering once a week on the day

specified in the daily schedule of the prison. In addition, the prison dining room has Leijona Catering vending machines, which prisoners can use to buy foodstuffs during their mealtimes. Other possible purchases must be arranged separately with the prison staff.

The conditions of study permission or civilian work permission may include a separate shopping day for those prisoners.

7 § Visits

7.1 § Supervised visits

Supervised visits are arranged on Saturdays and Sundays. On each day, the visits are divided into two groups (visiting group I and visiting group II). The visiting time of group I is at 10.10–11.10 and group II at 11.30–12.30. The visiting facilities are in the ground floor of the workshop building.

Visits are not arranged on Christmas Eve, Midsummer Eve or other public holidays. The duration of a visit is one hour.

Visits must be applied for in advance by filling in a separate form and leaving it in the office of the prison ward by 18.00 on Thursday preceding the visit. Prisoners must inform their visitors of the booked time of the visit. For a justified reason, visits can be arranged at other times.

The number of visitors is limited to three (3) people per prisoner, but all children in the family have the opportunity to visit their father at the same time, regardless of their number.

Visitors must arrive at the prison parking area well in advance: no later than 10.00 for the first visiting group and no later than 11.20 for the second visiting group. The visitors' identities will be verified, and they will be escorted from the park area to the visiting facilities.

If prisoners violate the terms of a visit laid down in the prison rules, a disciplinary punishment may be imposed on them.

7.2 § Unsupervised visits

Unsupervised visits are arranged every day if needed. An unsupervised visit starts between 17.00 and 20.00 and ends on the last granted day at 15.00 at the latest. It may be possible to agree on other beginning and end times separately.

When applying for an unsupervised visit (so-called family visit) for the first time, the application must be submitted to the senior instructor responsible for social work but, after that, the application can be submitted to the supervision staff. Each unsupervised visit must be applied for separately. An unsupervised visit must be applied for in good time before the desired date of the visit. The visiting time must always be booked through the supervision staff. The duration of the visit is 22 hours, and a visit lasting several days may be granted only for a justified reason.

7.3 § Communication via video connection

Prisoners may be granted permission to communicate with their close relatives or other close persons via video connection or other suitable technical means of communication, where the participants have an audio and visual connection with each other, once a week. The duration of a visit is 60 minutes. Video communication must be applied for by filling in a separate form in good time before the desired time. The application must include the desired date and time. Prisoners are not allowed to touch the video communication devices. The prison staff is in charge of monitoring, opening and closing communication via video or other devices.

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

7.4 § Receiving goods during visits

Prisoners are not allowed to receive or give goods during visits. Possible goods meant for visitors or prisoners must be given via the prison staff.

In connection with visits, prisoners may receive a minor amount (one regular 30 litre plastic bag) of ordinary goods intended for their personal use, but not, however, foodstuffs. The goods must be handed over to the staff for inspection after which they will be given to the prisoner. Goods which prisoners cannot have in their possession are returned to the visitor after the visit.

Clothes brought to prisoners are not necessarily included in the amount mentioned above if they have agreed on changing clothes to new ones in advance with the staff.

When assessing the quality and quantity of the property to be received, the provisions on the possession of property, the limitations of the storage facilities in the prison, and the fire load caused by the goods are taken into consideration.

Visitors must give the clothes, tobacco products and other goods meant for prisoners to the supervision staff for inspection when they arrive at prison for the visit. Tobacco, hygiene products, and other items brought to prisoners must be in their original, unopened retail packaging.

8 § Use of telephone

Prisoners may apply for permission to use a mobile phone in prison by using a designated form.

If prisoners do not have a mobile phone suitable for use in prison upon arrival, the prison will lend them a phone they can use after receiving permission. Smartphones are not suitable for use in prison, and the phone must not have a camera or internet connection. The use of personal smartphones in prison is prohibited without separate permission from the prison (for example, for authentication required by specific systems). Prisoners must acquire a SIM card for their phone themselves and give it to the staff.

Prisoners have their phones in their possession at all times; the phone is not taken away at night. Disturbing use of the phone is prohibited, as is using the phone at night after quiet hours. Prisoners may use their phone only in their own cell or in the phone booths located in the accommodation ward. Prisoners are not allowed to carry their phone with them elsewhere in the prison and they must leave it in their cell when leaving the accommodation ward.

The phone provided by the prison may be taken outside the prison (for example, during prison leave or other permission).

More detailed instructions on the use of telephone are on the application form.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners for acting against this rule.

9 § Smoking and cleanliness

Smoking is forbidden in all other areas except for those specifically assigned for smoking. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners for acting against this rule.

The order of the furniture in the accommodation room cannot be changed without the permission of an official of the Prison and Probation Service. All goods have to 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 accommodation cell.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners for acting against this rule.

10 § Possession of property

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

According to chapter 9, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 1 of the Imprisonment Act, 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, 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, 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 enable photography or filming. These include, among others, cameras and video cameras.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Objects that can cause a cleanliness, health, or fire hazard. These include, among others, tattoo equipment, animals, plants, and candles.
- 4) 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, the possession of an object or substance may be denied if it cannot be inspected without unreasonable difficulty or without damaging it.

According to chapter 9, section 1, subsection 1, paragraph 5 of the 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, 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.

10.2 § 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 in their possession must be such that they can be stored in the storage spaces of the accommodation room in places reserved for them.

Prisoners may be given a mobile phone, one SIM card and/or a computer if they have been given permission to use and possess them. Otherwise, such devices are prohibited, as are add-ons and accessories that can be used to connect to the internet. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners for an unauthorised possession of the aforementioned objects.

An Internet connection may not be established on game consoles or other devices, even if the device could enable it. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for unauthorised Internet access.

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.

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.

When prisoners bring goods to prison, they must be shown to the prison staff. 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.

11 § Prison wards

The wards in Huittinen Prison vary in level of supervision and activities.

The prison has an accommodation building, which comprises accommodation floors 1, 2, 3, and 4. The 2nd floor has more restricted activities, as it is a so-called intensive ward for prisoners who arrive at the prison or relapse (Intro). Prisoners placed in the Intro ward are not allowed to visit other wards, and other prisoners are not allowed to visit the cells or use the kitchen in the Intro ward.

The prison also has a isolation ward, which consists of a punishment cell, travel cells, and isolation cells.

12 § Substance use and medication

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating the commitment to abstain from intoxicating substances, or 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 has to 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.

13 § Entry into force

These prison rules enter into force on 15 December 2025 and repeals the prison rules that entered into force on 1 June 2023.

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