

Prison and Probation Centre for Helsinki

Prison rules for Suomenlinna Prison

Entry into force on 1 September 2026

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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 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 (see attached map).

Swimming in water basins within the prison area is prohibited.

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

Prisoners are supervised electronically. Prisoners must be constantly reachable via the monitoring devices. Prisoners are responsible for using the devices linked to electronic monitoring appropriately and according to the instructions, carrying the devices with them and keeping them functional. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for causing the devices to malfunction or using them carelessly.

Exceptions concerning electronic monitoring are only possible by the decision of the head of the prison.

3 § Clothing in the prison area

Prisoners must be dressed appropriately in the prison area.

In summer, you can sunbathe without a shirt right next to your accommodation ward and only in the back of the prison yard. Sunbathing without a shirt is not allowed in the front of the prison area near the dining room, control room and officials' buildings. You have to wear a shirt when you exercise outdoors in the prison yard near the control room, dining room and administrative building or have meetings with the staff members.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating this rule.

4 § Headcount

The prisoner headcount is checked daily. Prisoners in the prison must report to the round-the-clock control room at times stated in the daily schedule.

The morning headcount takes place in the control room according to the daily schedule. The evening headcount is carried out during the supervision round in the accommodation buildings, with prisoners in their own rooms, or, in exceptional circumstances, in another manner specified by staff. When a headcount is conducted in the accommodation buildings, prisoners must stand up and face the staff carrying out the headcount. Exceptions to this may only be made if the prisoners' state of health prevents them from standing up. A headcount may be conducted at any time of day if need be.

A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating this rule.

If a prisoner is not present in the specified place without an acceptable reason during headcount, a disciplinary punishment may be imposed on the prisoner.

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 offers social rehabilitation programmes and activities, preparatory and vocational education and training, on-the-job training, substance abuse rehabilitation, and work arranged by the Governing Body of Suomenlinna or other partners outside the prison.

It is possible to visit the library located in Suomenlinna once a week at times specified in the daily schedule and the information leaflet for prisoners.

Prisoners can participate in physical exercise in prison.

6 § Procuring goods

Prisoners have an opportunity to purchase foodstuffs and other goods twice a week. The shopping times are in the prison's daily schedule and information leaflet for prisoners.

7 § Visits

7.1 § Supervised visits

In Suomenlinna Prison, supervised visits are arranged at 11.30-13.30 on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Visits are not arranged on Christmas Eve or Midsummer Eve. A supervised visit lasts two hours. Visits must be applied for in advance by filling in a separate form and leaving it in the prison control room by 21.00 on Wednesday 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. Prisoners can be visited by their spouse and children belonging to the same household or at most two other visitors. The visitors have to report to the round-the-clock control room where their identity card is checked.

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 § Unsupervised visits

Suomenlinna Prison does not have facilities for unsupervised visits. Instead of an unsupervised visit, the prisoners can apply for prison leave for a particularly important reason.

7.3 § Communication via video connection

Prisoners may be given 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, on visiting days defined in the daily schedule or according to their needs. The duration of the communication can be 60 minutes at most. Visits must be applied for in advance by filling in a separate form and leaving it in the prison control room by 21.00 on Wednesday preceding the visit. 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 the visitor or the prisoner must be given via or in the presence of the prison staff.

In connection with visits, prisoners may receive a minor amount (one plastic shopping bag) of ordinary goods intended for their personal use. The goods must be handed over to the staff for inspection after which they will be given to the prisoner. Visitors may bring goods to the prisoner who booked the visit. 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 the prisoners have discussed changing clothes to new ones in advance with the senior prison official of the prison.

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.

8 § Use of telephone

Prisoners may be provided with a mobile phone owned by the prison. To use the phone, prisoners must obtain a SIM card for it themselves.

The phone may only be used in the prisoner's own accommodation room or in the prison's outdoor areas. The phone may not be used during the quiet hours specified in the daily schedule, nor may it be taken to the prison workplace or other activities without specific permission from staff.

The use of personal smartphones or smart devices in prison is prohibited without specific permission from the prison.

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

9 § Smoking and cleanliness

Smoking is forbidden in all other areas except for those specifically assigned for smoking.

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 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.

Electrical devices must be switched off when leaving the accommodation cell.

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

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 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 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

Suomenlinna Prison has no separate wards.

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 1 September 2026 and repeal the prison rules that entered into force on 1 December 2019.

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