R/SE PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICE FINLAND

Prison and Probation Centre for Southwestern Finland

Turku Prison

Prison rules

Entry into force on 1 November 2026

Prison rules for Turku Prison

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1 § General

In addition to Turku Prison, these prison rules also apply to the Turku Unit of the Psychiatric Hospital for Prisoners.

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 residential 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 wear appropriate clothing within the prison area and follow all instructions regarding clothing. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for violating this rule.

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

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 or other 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 a headcount, 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. The times of headcounts are specified in the daily schedule.

The times of headcounts are specified in the daily schedule. A headcount may be conducted at any time of day if need be.

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

Prisoners are obligated to close and lock the cell doors when they leave their cells. 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

In Turku Prison, the free time activities include, among others, physical exercise, handicrafts, and music. In addition, different cooperation partners arrange free time activities in the prison periodically.

The arranged work activities vary between wards and include carpentry, surface treatment, metalwork, bookbinding, repair of clothing, upholstery, domestic care (cleaning

or laundry), weaving and sewing. The work activities also include repair and restoration of furniture and arts and crafts.

The prison organises education periodically in cooperation with, among others, outside education institutions. Prisoners may be granted permission to study independently in their cell.

The prison offers substance rehabilitation and activities supporting the prisoners to manage their life and live without crime.

Prisoners can use the prison library at times specified in the daily schedule of the ward.

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

6 § Buying foodstuffs in prison

Turku Prison does not have a separate prison canteen where prisoners could do their shopping. Prisoners make their purchases once a week by using the order lists. The ordered goods will be delivered to the residential ward. Prisoners pay with their payment cards at the payment terminal. More precise times are in the daily schedule of the ward.

7 § Visits

7.1 § Supervised visits

The visits are arranged on Saturdays. Prisoners can meet people close to them once every two weeks on Saturdays. Visits are not arranged on Christmas Eve, Midsummer Eve or public holidays. between 09.00 and 13.45. The visiting time of each residential ward is stated in the daily schedule of the ward. A visit may also be granted at another time based on individual consideration. The duration of a visit is 45 minutes.

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

Prisoners have to write the names and dates of birth of the visitors in a visit form and submit it in good time beforehand but, at the latest, by 8.00 on Wednesday preceding the visit. Prisoners have to also write their residential ward in the form. The form is submitted to an official handling the register of visitors. An incomplete form will be returned, and the missing information has to be added. Prisoners have to inform their visitors of the time of the visit. The visitors have to arrive and report to the prison gate at least 10 minutes before the actual visiting time. A visit may be denied if the visitor is late.

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

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. These visits are supervised.

The visits are arranged on Saturdays and Sundays between 9.00 and 13.45. A visit may also be granted at another time based on individual consideration. The duration of a visit is 45 minutes.

The application form for a visit by a child has to include the name of the residential ward and the names and dates of birth of the visitors. It has to be submitted in good time beforehand but, at the latest, by 8.00 on Wednesday preceding the visit. The first visit by a child should be applied early enough so that there is time to examine the prerequisites for the visit. The form is submitted to an official handling the register of visitors.

An incomplete form will be returned, and the missing information has to be added. Prisoners have to inform their visitors of the time of the visit. The visitors have to arrive and report to the prison gate at least 10 minutes before the actual visiting time.

7.3 § Unsupervised visits

Turku Prison has two rooms for unsupervised family visits. Prisoners can apply for an unsupervised visit by filling in a separate form. Unsupervised visits are arranged every day, starting at 09.30 at the earliest and ending at 14.30 at the latest. A prisoner can have a maximum of four (4) visitors at a time.

7.4 § Communication via video connection

Permission to use a prison computer to communicate with family members and other close people must be applied for each time separately by using a specific form. The duration of video communication is 30 minutes. The application must be submitted by 8.00 on Wednesday of the week in which video communication is requested Video communication sessions are arranged on Sundays, and the times of the sessions of each residential ward are stated in the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication may also be granted at another time at the discretion of the prison.

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 session once a week.

Video communication is supervised. Prisoners are not allowed to have any means to take notes or transmit written messages without the permission of the staff. Prisoners are not allowed to touch the devices, and the connection is opened and closed by a prison officer. Other people than those mentioned in the decision cannot be present during the video communication session. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for violating this rule.

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 approximately one normal-sized plastic bag (30 litres) of goods. The goods have to be handed over to the prison staff for inspection.

Prisoners, who want to give goods to their visitors, have to contact the prison staff in good time before the visit.

Prisoners can receive a maximum of two (2) newspapers or magazines. The quantity and quality of the goods meant for prisoners have to be such that the staff can inspect them without breaking them.

The visitors may leave goods only to the prisoner they are visiting, and the goods have to include the name of both the visitor and the visited prisoner.

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), the limitations of the storage facilities and the fire load caused by the goods are taken into consideration

8 § Use of telephone

In all wards, the telephones can be used when the ward is open or, for a justified reason, at another time. 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

If a prisoner tries to carry or gives another person for the purpose of carrying a letter, other postal item, or a message pass the inspection of the prison post, the prisoner may be imposed to disciplinary punishment. A letter has to include the name of the sender, the name and address of the receiver and a stamp.

10 § Smoking and cleanliness

Smoking inside the prison is prohibited. The possession of tobacco product and lighting devices is prohibited at other times except during outdoor exercise. The smoking products of each prisoner are kept separately in a locked storage meant for that. Smoking is possible once a day during outdoor exercise. At other times, including when participating in activities, smoking is prohibited. Smoking accessories found in a prisoner's possession without permission will be placed among the prisoner's civilian belongings. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on prisoners for acting against this rule.

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

Electrical devices must be switched off when leaving the cell.

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, candles and lighting devices.

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 residential 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 on the devices or elsewhere in the cell.

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 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.

Prisoners placed in the Turku Unit of the Psychiatric Hospital for Prisoners have more limited opportunities to possess objects and goods than prisoners in other prison wards due to the temporary nature of the placement and the hospital environment.

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

Turku Prison has the following wards:
Building 101 contains the high-security ward and the travel vell ward.
Building 103 contains wards (floors) 103–1,103–2,103–3 and103–4.
Building 104 contains wards (floors) 104–1 (currently under renovation), 104–2 and 104–3. In buildings 103 and 104, each floor is divided into wings A, B and C, which, if necessary and possible, are further divided into smaller wards A1 and A2, B1 and B2, and C1 and C2.
Building 106 contains wards (floors) 1 and 2 of the Turku Unit of the Psychiatric Hospital for Prisoners.

Building 101

Travel cell ward

This ward is for prisoners leaving or arriving at the prison It is intended for short-term placement. There are also observation cells.

Visits are arranged on Saturdays at a time specified by staff. Telephone calls are agreed separately. Video communication sessions take place on Sundays at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward.

High-security ward

This ward is isolated from the rest of the prisoners. Activities take place individually and/or in small groups.

Visits are arranged every other Saturday in odd-numbered weeks, in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication sessions take place on Sundays at a time specified in the ward’s daily schedule. Telephone calls may be made when the wards are open.

Building 103

103–1

A1 is a ward for underage remand prisoners, who attend school and participate in other organised activities.

A2 is a substance abuse rehabilitation ward, where prisoners commit to abstinence from intoxicating substances and take part in a substance abuse programme.

B is an isolation ward for prisoners, who are placed in solitary confinement, segregated due to the investigation of a disciplinary infraction, or subject to precautionary measures.

C1 is a ward for prisoners, who are difficult to place for reasons related to their own safety. This is an activity ward, where prisoners take part in rehabilitating work activities. Wards C1 and C2 may interact with one another.

C2 is a ward for prisoners, who are difficult to place for reasons related to their own safety. Wards C1 and C2 may interact with one another.

Visits are arranged every other Saturday in even-numbered weeks, in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication sessions take place on Sundays at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward. Telephone calls may be made when the wards are open.

103–2

A1, A2 and B are wards for remand prisoners who are not subject to any restrictions and are allowed to interact with other remand prisoners.

C1 is an activity ward for sentenced prisoners.

C2 is a ward for remand prisoners, who are subject to restrictions and whose activities take place individually.

Visits are arranged every other Saturday in even-numbered weeks, in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication sessions take place on Sundays at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward. Telephone calls may be made when the wards are open.

103–3

The ward consists of wings A, B and C. This is an activity ward (floor), where all prisoners take part in rehabilitating work activities. Wings A and B operate together but separately from wing C.

Visits are arranged every other Saturday in even-numbered weeks, in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication sessions take place on Sundays at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward. Telephone calls may be made when the wards are open.

103–4

A1 and A2 are wards for prisoners, who are difficult to place for reasons related to their own safety. The wards may not interact with one another. Activities take place in small groups.

B1, B2 and C1 are closed wards with activities organised separately.

C2 is a ward for remand prisoners, who are subject to restrictions and whose activities take place separately from other prisoners and individually.

Visits are arranged every other Saturday in even-numbered weeks, in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward.
Video communication sessions take place on Sundays at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward. Telephone calls may be made when the wards are open.

Building 104

104–1

This is not currently used to accommodate prisoners (under renovation).

104–2

A1 and A2 are wards with intensified supervision, where activities take place in small groups. The wards may not interact with one another.

B1 and B2 are closed wards, which do not interact with one another.

C1 is a ward for remand prisoners, who are subject to restrictions and whose activities take place separately from other prisoners and individually.

C2 is a ward for remand prisoners who are subject to intensified supervision but may interact with one another.

Visits are arranged every other Saturday in odd-numbered weeks, in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication sessions take place on Sundays at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward. Telephone calls may be made when the wards are open.

104–3

A2 is a ward for prisoners accommodated separately at their own request.

A1 and B is an arrival ward meant as short term accommodation for prisoners arriving at the prison. During their stay there, the prison staff finds out which residential ward would be best for them.

C1 and C2 are wards are for long-term prisoners. The wards may carry out activities simultaneously.

Visits are arranged every other Saturday in odd-numbered weeks, in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication sessions take place on Sundays at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward. Telephone calls may be made when the wards are open.

The times when the residential wards are open are in the daily schedules of the wards.

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

Building 106 (Turku Unit of the Psychiatric Hospital for Prisoners)

Ward 1

This is a therapeutic activity ward, where activities are carried out in accordance with the daily schedule. The ward has a special section, where activities take place individually and/or in small groups, if needed.

There is also an isolation ward, where prisoners are generally placed to monitor their state of health and ensure safety.

Visits are arranged on Saturdays in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication sessions take place on weekends at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward. Telephone calls may be made when the ward is open.

The telephone can be used when the ward is open or, for a justified reason, at another time.

Ward 2

This is a therapeutic activity ward, where activities are carried out in accordance with the daily schedule. The ward has a women’s section and a special section, where activities take place individually and/or in small groups, if needed.

There is also an isolation ward, where prisoners are generally placed to monitor their state of health and ensure safety.

Visits are arranged on Saturdays in accordance with the daily schedule of the ward. Video communication sessions take place on weekends at a time specified in the daily schedule of the ward. Telephone calls may be made when the ward is open.

The telephone can be used when the ward is open or, for a justified reason, at another time.

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 has to 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.

14 § Entry into force

These prison rules enter into force on 1 November 2026 and repeal the prison rules that entered into force on 3 March 2025.

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