

Prison and Probation Centre for Häme and Pirkanmaa

Prison rules for Vilppula Prison

Entry into force on 5 February 2024

## Prison rules for Vilppula Prison

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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. 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 and the attached map (appendix 1).

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.

## **4 § Checking the number of prisoners**

The number of prisoners is checked in places and at times stated in the daily schedule. When the checking of the number of prisoners is carried out by reporting to the round-the-clock control room, the prisoners must make sure that they report in within the given time limit. When the number of prisoners is checked in the accommodation facilities, prisoners must stay in their room at the given time.

If a prisoner is not present in the specified place without an acceptable reason when the number of prisoners is checked, a disciplinary punishment may be imposed on the prisoner.

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

Vilppula Prison offers vocational education and training and pre-vocational education preparing for vocational studies. Prisoners can also participate in work or open prison work in Vilppula Prison.

In their free-time, prisoners can participate in various activities under instruction or independently in the recreational facilities within the prison area. The outdoor trail is outside the area where prisoners are allowed to be; therefore, prisoners must report to the control room of the prison when they go to or come from the trail. Further instructions for taking part in activities arranged outside the prison area can be found in the control room of the prison.

The prison arranges joint visits to the library of Mänttä-Vilppula once a week. More precise times are in the daily schedule of the prison.

## **6 § Procuring goods**

Prisoners have an opportunity to purchase foodstuffs and other goods at least once a week. More precise times are in the daily schedule of the prison.

## **7 § Visits**

### **7.1 § Supervised visits**

Visits are arranged on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays between 9.30 and 14.00. Prisoners can be visited by their spouse and children belonging to the same household and at most two other visitors.

Prisoners must tell in writing the names and dates of birth of the visitors coming on Saturday or Sunday by using a separate form meant for visits that can be obtained from the control room. The form must be returned to the control room by 18.00 on Thursday before the visit.

A form concerning a visit during a public holiday must be returned by 15.00 on the weekday before the visit.

The visitors have to report to the control room where their identity cards are checked.

## **7.2 § Unsupervised visits**

A prisoner may apply for an unsupervised visit (so-called family visit) by submitting an application to a senior instructor. The visit may last three days at the most.

## **7.3 § Communication via video connection**

Application forms for communication via video connection (Skype meeting) are available in the control room. The Skype connection may be used outside the activity hours stated in the daily schedule when the prison is open. The duration of the meeting can be 60 minutes at most.

## **7.4 § Receiving goods during visits**

In connection with visits, prisoners may receive a moderate amount of ordinary goods and foodstuffs intended for their personal use. Goods brought during a visit for prisoners must be left for inspection in the control room. The prisoners will get the goods after the inspection.

## **8 § Smoking and cleanliness**

Smoking is forbidden in all other areas except for those specifically assigned for smoking. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner 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 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 a prisoner for attaching objects elsewhere in the accommodation room.

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

## **9 § Possession of property**

### **9.1 § 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 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.

## **9.2 § 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.

A prisoner may be given a mobile phone and/or a computer if the prisoner has 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 a prisoner 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 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 a prisoner if such objects are found in the prisoner's possession.

When a prisoner brings goods to prison, they must be shown to the prison staff. 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 50 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.

If a prisoner is transferred to another prison, the prison rules in force there at the time of the transfer are applied.



## **10 § Prison wards**

Vilppula Prison has no separate wards with different levels of supervision or range of activities.

## **11 § 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 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.

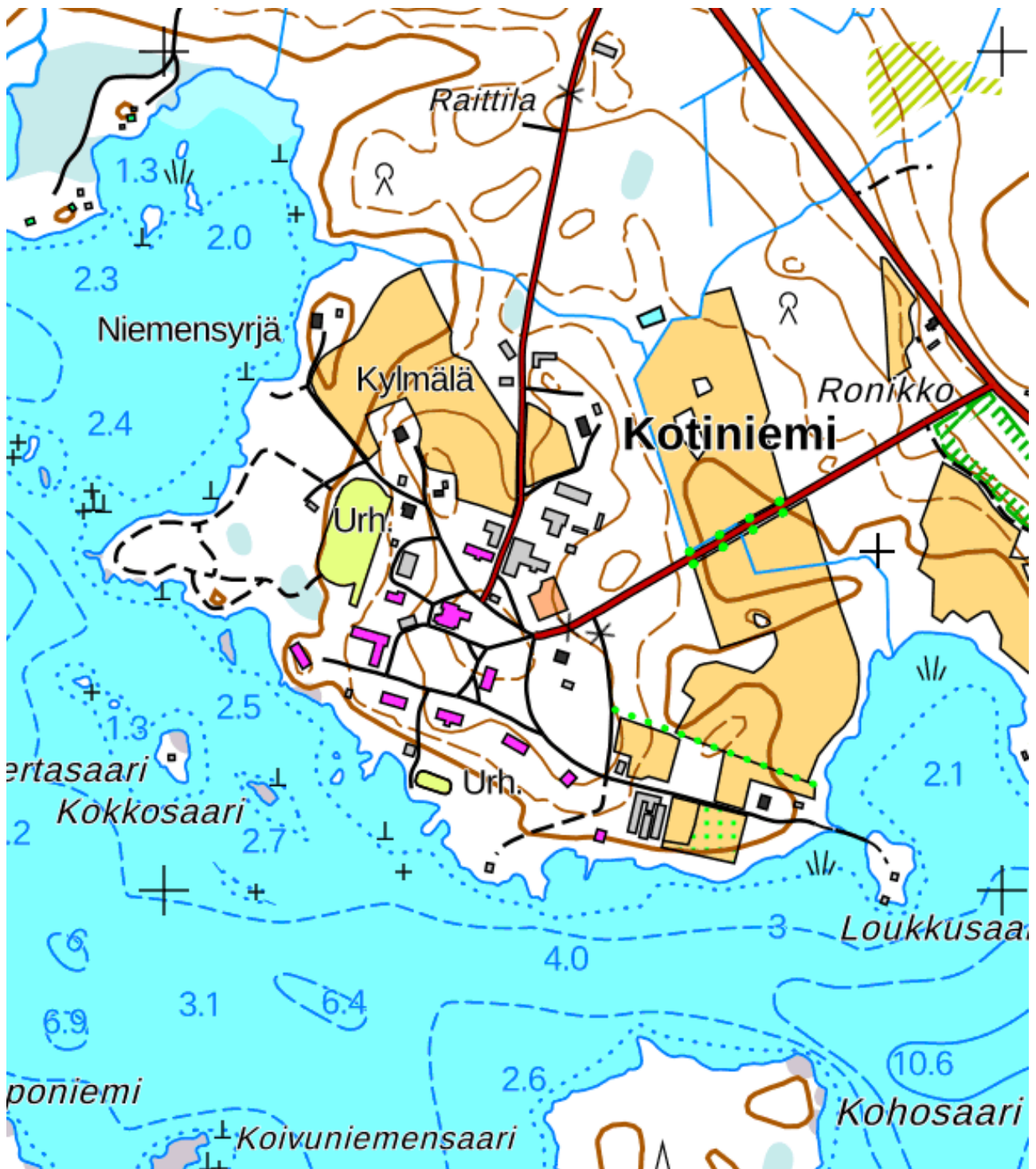
## **12 § Entry into force**

These prison rules enter into force on 5 February 2024 and repeal the prison rules that entered into force on 2 December 2019.

Helsinki, 31 January 2024

Director of Core Operations Department Riitta Kari

Lawyer Jani Kotoaro



## Appendix 1: Allowed areas

The area where prisoners are allowed to be is marked with a red line. It contains the sports field marked with light green and the water area.

The outdoor trail starts from the sports field and is marked with a black dashed line on the map. Prisoners, who use it, have to report to the control room as instructed in the prison rules.

The area meant for family visits (smaller area marked with red line) covers the building called Perhelä, the island called Mertasaari and the water area between them.