

# Criminal Sanctions Region of Eastern and Northern Finland

## Prison rules for Pelso Prison

Entry into force on 19 December 2019

## Prison rules for Pelso Prison

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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. 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 Criminal Sanctions Agency 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 properly dressed within the prison area.

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

The cell doors are locked during the times determined in the daily schedule. When the ward is locked, prisoners must be in their own cells or in other location marked in the checklist of prisoners.

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

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

The prison arranges work activities in cleaning, clothing maintenance, real estate maintenance, agriculture and manufacturing. All work activities can include non-formal learning. In addition, the prison offers basic education and general upper

secondary education studies and pre-vocational education preparing for vocational studies (Valma). The prison offers various activity programmes aiming to influence recidivism.

The prison arranges different free-time activities according to the season and informs about them separately. The free-time activities include, among others, music, library, exercise and peer group activities. Activities linked to practising religion are arranged according to the weekly schedule.

Prisoners can use the library services at least once a week at the times specified in the daily schedule.

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

More precise times for visiting the prison canteen are in the separate weekly schedule.

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 must pay with their Prepaid Cards via a payment terminal.

## **7 § Visits**

### **7.1 § Supervised visits**

Supervised visits are arranged on Sundays and possibly on public holidays between 9.00 and 14.00. The more detailed times are in the application form for visits.

The visit can last 45 minutes at a time.

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

The visitor and the prisoner are not allowed to have 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**

A prisoner 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.

Prisoners can apply for a visit by a child by using the form for unsupervised visits. The form must be submitted to the office of the ward by 16.00 on Thursday.

Visits by a child are arranged on Sundays and possibly on public holidays between 10.15 and 11.00. The visit is supervised.

### **7.3 § Unsupervised visits**

Unsupervised visits are arranged on Saturdays and Sundays and possibly on public holidays between 9.00 and 14.00.

The duration of an unsupervised visit is five (5) hours.

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

The possibility to communicate via video connection is determined based on the application of the prisoner and the availability of free time and facilities. Prisoners must reserve a time beforehand by filling in a form by 12.00 on the previous Thursday. The form will be returned to the prisoner once the time has been confirmed.

Communication via video connection lasts 45 minutes at a time.

Communication via video is arranged on Sundays and possibly on public holidays between 9.00–14.00.

Prisoners are not allowed to have means to take notes or transmit written messages without the permission of the staff. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for violating this rule.

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

During visits, a visitor may bring a minor amount of goods to the prisoner.

### **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.

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 reserved 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 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 is forbidden in all other areas except for the cell and areas specifically assigned for smoking and during outdoor exercise. The cell door must be kept closed while smoking in order to prevent the cigarette smoke from carrying to the corridors. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for acting against this rule.

The order of the furniture in the cell cannot be changed without the permission of an official of the Criminal Sanctions Agency. 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 cell. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for attaching objects elsewhere in the cell.

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 communication. 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 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.

## **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 has an identification number.

The seals attached to the device during an 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 a prisoner if such objects are found in the prisoner's possession.

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 30 copies of all recordings (including CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray discs and game console games), 6 books, 6 magazines, and 6 newspapers 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 a prisoner before the prison rules entered into force. If a prisoner is transferred to another prison, the prison rules in force there at the time of the transfer are applied.

## 12 § Prison wards

The wards have daily schedules confirmed by the prison director.

### ACCOMMODATION WARD 1

Name	Grounds for placement	Number of places	Use of telephone
A (closed, downstairs)	Prisoners who participate in activities	16	When the cells are open
B (closed, upstairs)	Prisoners who participate in activities	16	When the cells are open

### ACCOMMODATION WARD 2

Name	Grounds for placement	Number of places	Use of telephone
A (closed)	Prisoners who participate in activities	16	When the cells are open

### ACCOMMODATION WARD 3

Name	Grounds for placement	Number of places	Use of telephone
A (open)	Prisoners who participate in activities and commit to abstinence from substances and smoking	16	When the cells are open
B (closed)	Prisoners who participate in activities and commit to abstinence from smoking	16	When the cells are open

## RECEPTION WARD

Name	Grounds for placement	Number of places	Use of telephone
Travel cells	Prisoners arriving in or leaving the prison	6	*)
Discipline and isolation	Prisoners subjected to precautionary measures or serving a disciplinary punishment	3	*)

\*) Prisoners must inform the staff of their need to use the telephone.

**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**

This prison order enters into force on 19 December 2019 and repeals the prison order that entered into force on 5 June 2017.

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Criminal Sanctions Region of Eastern and Northern Finland

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