

Prison and Probation Centre for Southwestern Finland

Prison rules for Turku Prison

Entry into force on 3 March 2025

Prison rules for Turku 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 have to 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.

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 have to 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

The cell doors are locked during the times determined in the daily schedule.

When the ward is locked, prisoners have to be in their own cells or in other location marked in the checklist of prisoners. The checking of the number of prisoners has to be carried out by

opening the cell door so that the condition and state of health of each prisoner living in the cell can be visually observed. If necessary, the staff will discuss with the prisoners separately.

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 prisoner's state of health prevents the prisoner from standing up. The times, when the number of prisoners is checked, are specified in the daily schedule.

The times, when the number of prisoners is checked, are specified in the daily schedule.

Prisoners are obligated to close and lock the cell doors when they leave their cells. Opening or closing the safety latches on the cell doors is forbidden.

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

If a prisoner is not in his or her cell or other specified place, where the number of prisoners is checked, without an acceptable reason when the ward is locked, a disciplinary punishment may be imposed on the prisoner.

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.

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 accommodation ward. Prisoners have to pay with their payment cards via a 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 9.00 and 13.45. The visiting time of each accommodation 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 accommodation 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 a prisoner violates the terms of a visit 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. It is supervised.

The visits are arranged on Saturdays and Sundays between 9.00 and 13.45. The visiting time of each accommodation 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.

The application form for a visit by a child has to include the name of the accommodation 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 9.30 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

Prisoners can apply for a video connection (Skype) to communicate with people outside the prison by filling in a separate form. The communication via video connection can last 30 minutes. Each ward can arrange a maximum of six (6) video connections at a time. The application has to be submitted by 8.00 on Wednesday of the week when you wish to

communicate via video connection. Communication via video connection is arranged on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays according to the daily schedules of the wards.

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 call once a week.

The 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, the connection is opened and closed by a prison officer. Other people than those mentioned in the decision cannot be present during the communication. 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 about one normal plastic shopping 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.

When assessing what is a reasonable quantity of received goods, attention is paid to the amount of property prisoners have in their possession and in storage, the storage possibilities and facilities in their accommodation room, and the factors related to fire safety. 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 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 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. 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 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. Damaging the cell or the furniture is prohibited. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for attaching the aforementioned objects elsewhere in the accommodation room and for damaging the cell or the furniture.

Electrical devices have to be switched off when leaving the cell. Prisoners' personal and the prison's electrical devices and plugs have to be intact. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for breaking the electrical devices or plugs.

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, 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 have to 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 has to 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 an 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 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 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 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

Cell building 103:

1st floor

Ward for remand prisoners and isolation ward. Visits on Saturdays according to the daily schedule of the ward.

2nd floor

Activity ward Visits on Saturdays according to the daily schedule of the ward.

3rd floor

Activity ward Visits on Saturdays according to the daily schedule of the ward.

4th floor

Special ward with activities in small groups and ward for remand prisoners. Visits on Saturdays according to the daily schedule of the ward.

Cell building 104:

1st floor

Arrival ward, isolation ward, daily support ward, and polyclinic. Visits on Saturdays according to the daily schedule of the ward.

2nd floor

Substance rehabilitation ward, activity ward, and ward for young prisoners. Visits on Saturdays according to the daily schedule of the ward.

3rd floor

Ward with intensified supervision, special ward with activities in small groups, and ward for remand prisoners. Visits on Saturdays according to the daily schedule of the ward.

Travel cell ward for short-term placement. Visits on Saturdays at a time specified by the staff.

High-security ward. Visits according to the daily programme.

In all wards, the telephone can be used when the ward is open or, for a justified reason, at another time. Prisoners placed in the isolation ward as a disciplinary punishment or for reasons related to an investigation have to inform the staff of their need to use the telephone.

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

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 3 March 2025 and repeal the prison rules that entered into force on 11 November 2024.

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