

FORM OF ORDER AND TRANSMITTAL BY AGENCY HAVING SINGLE HEAD

State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

(agency name)

Administrative Order No. 83-09

(1) I, Amos E. Reed, director of the Department of Corrections,

do promulgate and adopt at Olympia, Washington (place)

the annexed rules relating to:

Adopt: WAC 137-48, Adult Correctional Institutions - Inmate Mail
Repeal: WAC 275-96

(2) ALTERNATIVE A. Use only for Adoption of Permanent Rules.

This action is taken pursuant to Notice No. 83-17-135 filed with the code reviser on 8/24/83. These rules shall take effect:

- [X] thirty days after they are filed with the code reviser pursuant to RCW 34.04.040(2).
[] at a later date, such date being

(2) ALTERNATIVE B. Use only for Adoption of Emergency Rules.

I, find that an emergency exists and that this order is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare and that observance of the requirements of notice and opportunity to present views on the proposed action would be contrary to public interest. A statement of the facts constituting the emergency is:

These rules are therefore adopted as emergency rules to take effect upon filing with the code reviser.

(3) Pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.04.026 that every agency shall incorporate the most specific, but in no case omit all, of the following language alternatives when adopting or amending rules fill in statement (a), (b), or (c) as appropriate:

- [] (a) This rule is promulgated pursuant to RCW and is intended to administratively implement that statute.
[] (b) This rule is promulgated pursuant to RCW which directs that the

(agency)

has authority to implement the provisions of

(name of act or RCW citation)

- [X] (c) This rule is promulgated under the general rule-making authority of the Department of Corrections

(agency)

as authorized in RCW 72.09.050, 72.08.380, 72.12.140

(4) The undersigned hereby declares that the agency has complied with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW), the Administrative Procedure Act (chapter 34.04 RCW) and the State Register Act (chapter 34.08 RCW) in the adoption of these rules.

(5) This order, after being first recorded in the order register of this agency, is herewith transmitted to the Code Reviser for filing pursuant to chapter 34.04 RCW and chapter 1-12 WAC.

STATE OF WASHINGTON

APPROVED AND ADOPTED September 27, 19 83

SEP 27 1983

By Amos E. Reed, Secretary

Amos E. Reed, Secretary Title

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE WSR 83-20-036

CAS & PWS

NOTE:

¹RCW 34.04.026 provides:

- “(1) In addition to the provisions of RCW 34.04.025(1)(a)(i), every agency shall incorporate the most specific, but in no case omit all, of the following language alternatives when adopting or amending rules:
- (a) The most specific reference shall be to a section of law which the rule is implementing, and shall be quoted as follows: “This rule is promulgated pursuant to RCW _____ and is intended to administratively implement that statute.”
 - (b) The next specific reference, and one which shall be used only if paragraph (a) of this subsection is not applicable, shall be to that portion of an act which directs an agency to adopt rules and regulations as necessary to implement the act, and shall be quoted as follows: “This rule is promulgated pursuant to RCW _____ which directs that the (agency) has authority to implement the provisions of (name of act or RCW citation).”
 - (c) The least specific reference, and one which shall be used only if paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection are not applicable, is one which indicates that the rule is promulgated under the agency’s broad rule-making authority—either in the agency enabling legislation or chapter 34.04 RCW, and shall be quoted as follows: “This rule is promulgated under the general rule-making authority of the (agency) as authorized in RCW _____.”
- (2) The code reviser is directed to develop a format for placing such specific language in each rule, and agencies shall then comply with the code reviser’s direction, and shall include the same in the final rule.
- (3) During the promulgation hearings process the public may question whether such rule should have a more specific reference, and the agency shall, pursuant to RCW 34.04.025(1)(b), give consideration to such requests.”

All correspondence regarding this WAC should be addressed to:

Contracts Administrator
Office of Contracts and Regulations
Division of Management and Budget
Mail Stop FN-61
Scan 234-5770

Chapter 137-48 WAC

INMATE MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-010 PURPOSE. The purpose of these rules is to maintain the safety, security, and discipline of adult correctional facilities operated under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections in accordance with Title 72 RCW et al., by establishing guidelines for the development of department and institution level policies and rules governing the receipt and sending of mail by inmates to prevent the transmission of illegal items or contraband into or out of an institution.

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-020 DEFINITIONS. (1) "Contraband" consists of all illegal items, alcoholic beverages, and other items which a resident of a correctional institution may not have in his/her possession, as defined in regulations adopted by the superintendent of an institution and approved by the secretary.

(2) "Emergency situations" are critical illnesses, deaths, emotional crises, or similar situations experienced by members of the inmate's family or the inmate.

(3) "Illegal items" are controlled substances as defined and listed in chapter 69.50 RCW or any weapon, firearm, or any instrument which, if used, could produce serious bodily injury to the person of another.

(4) "Indigent inmate" means an inmate who has not been credited with more than ten dollars ^{total} from any source ^(s) for deposit to the inmate's trust fund during the thirty days preceding a mail request of postage to be paid by the institution or has less than a ten dollar balance in his/her trust fund account.

(5) "Inspection of mail" means the physical act of opening, touching, smelling, and/or reading of mail, the use of mechanical or chemical systems and/or the use of animals to determine the presence of contraband or illegal items.

(6) "Legal mail" is correspondence to or from courts and court staff (judges, clerks of the court, judicial law clerks, etc.), attorneys and persons working for attorneys and to established groups involved in the representation of inmates in judicial proceedings (ACLU, legal services groups, etc.), and government officials or agencies. To be considered "legal mail" the correspondence must clearly be marked "legal mail" on the outside of the envelope.

(7) "Letters" consists of personal communications and enclosures to and from inmates including, but not limited to, handwritten or typed communications.

(8) "Mail" consists of letters, publications, or packages delivered by the United States Post Office or by other means.

(9) "Packages" means the immediate container or wrapping and the contents therein in which any item is contained for consumption, use or storage by inmates, and for purposes of this chapter, also means any shipping container or outer wrapping and the contents therein used by retailers to ship or deliver any item to inmates where it is the only such container or wrapping.

(10) "Publications" consists of reproduced handwritten or pictorial materials including books, periodicals, newspapers, and pamphlets.

(11) "Secretary" is the secretary of the department of corrections or his/her designee(s).

(12) "Superintendent" means the superintendent of a correctional facility or his/her designee(s).

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-030 INSPECTION OF MAIL. (1) All mail received by or to be sent by an inmate, excluding legal mail discussed in subsection (2) of this section, may be inspected at any time by the superintendent or his/her designee(s). Mail may be disapproved for receipt or transmittal in accordance with WAC 137-48-040. No person who inspects, or participates in the inspection, of an inmates mail, shall disclose the contents except in the cause of his/her official duties.

(2) Mail which is clearly identified on the outside of the envelope as legal mail, as defined in WAC 137-48-020(13), shall be inspected only in the presence of the inmate. Legal mail shall not be read without a search warrant.

(3) Mail containing illegal items or contraband shall be held and disposed of in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 137-36 WAC or as otherwise stated in this chapter.

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-040 RESTRICTION OF INCOMING AND/OR OUTGOING MAIL.

(1) Incoming mail to inmates may be disapproved for receipt for any one of the following reasons:

(a) The mail contains threats of physical harm against any person or threats of criminal activity.

(b) The mail threatens blackmail or extortion.

(c) The mail concerns sending contraband in or out of the institution.

(d) The mail contains plans to escape.

(e) The mail contains plans for activities in violation of institutional rules, such as riots.

(f) The mail concerns plans for criminal activity.

(g) The mail is in code or in a foreign language and its contents are not understood by the reader.

(h) The mail contains information which, if communicated, would create a risk of violence and/or physical harm.

(i) The mail contains contraband.

(j) The mail contains obscene material as defined in department policy directives.

(2) Outgoing mail from inmates of institutions may be disapproved for mailing for any one of the following reasons:

(a) For any one of the reasons set forth in WAC 137-48-040(1).

(b) The mail is addressed to a minor whose parents or guardian have objected in writing to such correspondence; an individual previously has been sent obscene or threatening mail by the inmate and has complained or has asked that such mail not be received; the mail solicits money or goods from persons other than the immediate family of the inmate without the permission of the superintendent. This provision may not be construed to preclude the purchase of noncontraband goods or payment for such goods which have been approved by the superintendent or his designee.

(3) No letter is to be restricted for the reason that it contains critical opinions of departmental policy or departmental employees.

(4) In addition to those reasons cited in this section, publications received by inmates may be restricted if:

(a) It advocates that any ethnic, racial, or religious group is inferior for any reason and makes such group an object of ridicule and scorn; or

(b) It may reasonably be thought to precipitate a violent confrontation between the recipient(s) and a member(s) of the target group. No publications will be withheld solely on the basis of their appeal to a particular ethnic, racial, or religious group.

(5) In addition to those reasons cited in this section, packages sent either to or from an inmate are subject to the following restrictions:

(a) An inmate may receive one gift package not to exceed fifteen pounds in weight on a quarterly basis. Quarterly periods shall consist of December through February, March through May, June through August, and September through November. Rules governing the contents of quarterly packages shall be developed specifically by each institutional superintendent and approved by the secretary. The superintendent may allow exceptions from the one gift package limitation and weight limitation provided that appropriate contraband controls are maintained.

(b) The contents of the quarterly package shall be restricted to those items that are otherwise not available to the inmate through the institutional store. A replacement package may be sent during the same quarter for damaged packages that are returned to the sender by the inmate. Packages containing contraband shall be refused delivery to the inmate and will be counted as the package for that quarter.

(c) Prepaid merchandise approved by the superintendent and ordered by the inmate from any wholesaler or retailer shall not be considered one of the quarterly packages.

(d) Inmates may mail packages containing materials which have been sent to him or her in the institution or gifts consisting of his or her own hobby craft or curio work. Packages must be made and mailed at the inmate's expense.

(e) Newly admitted inmates at the Washington Corrections Center will not receive packages while assigned to the reception center.

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-050 PROCEDURES FOR RESTRICTIONS OF INCOMING AND/OR OUTGOING MAIL. (1) If an inmates's incoming or outgoing mail is restricted, notification shall be provided to the inmate and the author of the mail in writing of the specific publication, letter, or package which has been censored and the reason for this action.

(2) The inmate and author shall be advised in writing of his/her right to seek review of the decision to restrict his/her mail. The review shall be sought by writing directly to the director of the division of prisons or his/her designee(s) within ten calendar days.

(3) Upon receipt of an inmate's and/or author's appeal, the director of prisons or his/her designee shall affirm or reverse the action taken at the institution level and shall advise the inmate and/or author in writing of this action within ten working days from the receipt of the inmate's or author's written request.

(4) When a decision is rendered regarding a particular issue of a publication, that decision shall be binding for all facilities in the division of prisons.

(5) If a package contains contraband and is subject to criminal prosecution, the entire package will be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Items of contraband not subject to criminal prosecution will be disposed of in accordance with those procedures set forth in chapter 137-36 WAC.

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-060 MAIL COSTS. (1) Except as otherwise stated in this section, mail costs shall be the responsibility of the inmate.

(2) Mail which arrives at the institution with postage due may, at the option of the superintendent, be delivered to the inmate. The institution may pay the postage due in accordance with subsection (3) of this section, or hold the mail for a reasonable period of time so as to allow the inmate to arrange for payment of the postage due. If such arrangements are not made within the time provided, the package may be donated to charity or discarded.

(3) Indigent inmates shall be authorized to receive postage for a maximum of five letters per week. This postage shall cover both legal and regular correspondence irrespective of the number of letters identified as legal mail. This shall also include costs advanced by the institution for postage due mail.

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-070 MAIL RECORDS. The institution superintendent or his/her designee(s) shall be responsible for the maintenance of a continuous record showing the source and destination of legal and official correspondence to and from government officials, packages and items of monetary value mailed by or mailed to an inmate. The secretary shall establish procedures for each institution governing the written mail record.

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-080 TELEPHONE USAGE. (1) Telephone facilities shall be provided in appropriate numbers and locations to permit reasonable and equitable access to all inmates, except inmates of the reception center and those inmates in disciplinary segregation.

(2) The superintendent shall promulgate written regulations providing for access of inmates to additional telephone facilities in emergency situations.

(3) The superintendent shall promulgate written regulations outlining the hours of telephone availability, maximum length of calls (not less than five minutes) and any limitations on telephone use, subject to approval by the secretary.

NEW SECTION

WAC 137-48-090 IMPLEMENTATION. The secretary may adopt rules and regulations implementing this chapter.

REPEALER

The following chapter of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

- (1) WAC 275-96-005 DEFINITIONS.
- (2) WAC 275-96-010 COMMUNICATION--PURPOSE.
- (3) WAC 275-96-015 COMMUNICATION--GENERAL LIMITATIONS.
- (4) WAC 275-96-021 OUTGOING MAIL.
- (5) WAC 275-96-022 INCOMING MAIL.
- (6) WAC 275-96-025 SPECIAL RULES--INCOMING PUBLICATION LIMITATIONS AND CONTROLS.
- (7) WAC 275-96-030 SPECIAL RULES REGARDING PACKAGES--LIMITATIONS AND CONTROLS.
- (8) WAC 275-96-045 HANDLING OF MAIL.
- (9) WAC 275-96-050 TREATMENT OF CASH AND CHECKS.
- (10) WAC 275-96-055 LEGAL MAIL.
- (11) WAC 275-96-060 STATIONERY AND POSTAGE.
- (12) WAC 275-96-065 USE OF TELEPHONE.
- (13) WAC 275-96-070 PROCEDURE FOR DISAPPROVAL OF RESIDENT MAIL.