



# FRANKLIN COUNTY JAIL

Chambersburg, PA

## Standard Operating Procedure

<b>Chapter:</b>	400	Activities and Support Services	<b>Number:</b>	400.05	<b>Pages:</b>	4
<b>Title:</b>	05	Incoming Publications	<b>Effective Date:</b>			

### POLICY

It is the policy of the Franklin County Jail (FCJ) to permit inmates to receive publications, up to a maximum of five (5), provided that the publications do not threaten the security, good order, or discipline of the institution, do not facilitate criminal activity, or are not prohibited by law. All approved publications will be inspected before being given to an inmate.

### PURPOSE

To describe the procedure to be followed by staff to process and control inmate personal publications.

### REFERENCES

ACA 4-ALDF-5B-07, 5B-08  
PA Title 37 95.234, 95.245

### DEFINITIONS

Publication: Any newspaper, book, or magazine that is circulated among the public for conveying information.

### PROCEDURES

1. Requesting and Receiving Publications
  - 1.1 Newspapers, books, and magazines are acceptable for delivery through the US Mail provided these materials are paid for in advance and are mailed or shipped directly from the publisher or approved bookstore to the jail and addressed to the inmate.
  - 1.2 Publications will be mailed or dropped off by the US Mail at the facility on a daily basis, and will be sorted and distributed to the inmates according to the FCJ Mail Policy (FCJ SOP 400.04 – Mail).

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- 1.2.1 Publications must be received via the US Mail; items received via any other means will not be accepted.
    - 1.2.2 Received publications will be marked with the inmates name and date received.
    - 1.2.3 Staff is not permitted to take or read an inmate's publication(s) for his own personal use.
  - 1.3 Publications will be held for a limited period of time (thirty (30) days) for individuals housed temporarily at other facilities. Inmates permanently transferred to another facility or discharged from the FCJ will be responsible for arranging to have publications forwarded to another address upon release, or they will be returned to sender. Publications received after discharge will be returned to sender, forwarded to an address provided, or disposed of by staff.
2. Restrictions
- 2.1 Inmates may have no more than a maximum of five (5) personal publications, which includes any combination of newspapers, magazines, or books. Staff will be responsible for enforcing this limit; any abuse of this privilege will result in a loss of this privilege.
    - 2.1.1 Inmates may not receive more than one copy of any publication.
    - 2.1.2 If the publication contains a free sample item (lotion, perfume, etc.) the item(s) shall be removed from the publication and the publication is to be delivered to the inmate. If the item cannot be removed, the publication will be returned to the sender.
    - 2.1.3 Books must be paperback, only.
  - 2.2 Inmates will not be allowed to have in their possession books or magazines that are more than two (2) months old. These items must be mailed out at the inmates expense or disposed of by a staff member.
  - 2.3 Inmates will not be allowed to have in their possession newspapers that are more than three (3) days old. Newspapers more than three (3) days old will be confiscated and disposed of.
  - 2.4 Publications are subject to inspection for contraband and information that poses a risk to facility safety and security. Publications that contain information that poses a risk to the safety and security of the FCJ will not be forwarded to an inmate. The inmate will be notified, in writing, the reason the publication is being restricted.

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- 2.5 The Warden or designee may exercise discretion to reject a publication if it is determined to be detrimental to the security, good order, or safety of the facility. A publication may be rejected in its entirety. If only a portion is objectionable, the entire publication will be rejected.
- 2.6 Magazines and newspapers that are prohibited by the United States Postal Service are not authorized for delivery to an inmate. Publications that may be rejected include but are not limited to those that meet one or more of the following criteria:
- Depicts or describes procedures for the construction or use of weapons, ammunition, bombs or incendiary devices
  - Depicts, encourages, or describes methods of escape from correctional facilities, or contains blueprints, drawings or similar descriptions of FCJ
  - Depicts or describes procedures for brewing alcoholic beverages, or the manufacture of drugs
  - Is written in code
  - Depicts, describes or encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence, group disruption, encourages gang friction within the institution
  - Encourages or instructs in the commission of criminal activity
  - Sexually explicit material, which by its nature or content poses a threat to the security, good order, or safety of the institution or its occupants, or detracts from the efforts directed toward offender rehabilitation
  - Advocates or leads to prohibited inmate sexual activity
  - Advocates racial, religious, or national hatred
- 2.7 Any personal inmate publications found in the possession of another inmate, outside his/her cell or cubicle, or altered in any way will be confiscated and appropriate disciplinary action taken.
- 2.7.1 Staff should be aware that newspapers that are provided by FCJ to each housing unit on a daily basis, which are for use by all individuals in the housing unit, should only be confiscated if it is being misused or older than three (3) days.
- 2.8 Any violation of the publication privilege could result in temporary loss of privileges, and any repeated violations will result in permanent loss of the privilege.
- 2.9 Any publication that is received and is not approved, allowed, or the inmate is no longer housed at the facility will be returned to the sender. A Rejected Correspondence Notice (FCJ Form 400.04-2) explaining why the item was rejected will be given to the inmate and a copy will be placed in the inmate's file.

**ATTACHMENTS**

FCJ Form 400.04-2 Rejected Correspondence Notice