

Prison and Probation Centre for North Karelia
Prison rules for Pyhäselkä Prison
Entry into force on 1 November 2025

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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 or if the prisoner behaves inappropriately.

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 have to be in their own cells or in other location marked in the checklist of prisoners.

The checking of the number of prisoners is 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. The prison uses the public address system to wake up prisoners in the morning after which all prisoners are obligated to be ready for the checking of the number of prisoners.

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.

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

Prisoners are obligated to lock their cell door when they leave their cell. The cell door has to be kept locked at all times.

5 § Work and free time activities

The work activities arranged in the prison include the laundry for the Finnish Defence Forces (folding and mitten workshop), sewing, cleaning and outdoor maintenance. In addition, prisoners can complete basic education and general upper secondary education studies and education preparing for a qualification.

In their free time, prisoners can, among others, participate in religious events, exercise in the sports hall or the gym or go to the library.

The prison library is open at times stated in the daily schedule of the ward. Prisoners can visit the library once every two weeks.

The free-time activities are specified in more detail in the daily schedule of each accommodation ward.

6 § Visiting the prison canteen

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 have to pay with their payment cards via a payment terminal.

The precise times for visiting the prison canteen are in the daily schedule of the ward.

7 § Visits

7.1 § Supervised visits

Supervised visits are arranged on Saturdays. A visit lasts 45 minutes and may start at 9.15, 10.15 or 11.15. Supervised visits are also arranged on public holidays, excluding Midsummer Eve and Christmas Eve. For a special reason, visits can also be arranged at other times. A visit is generally applied by using the form available on the cell terminal Doris. In wards which do not have cell terminals, a visit is applied by using a form received from the prison staff.

A visit has to be applied **by 7.30 on Wednesday preceding the visit** by using the form for supervised visits, which has to include the visitors' names and dates of birth.

Prisoners can be visited by their spouse and children belonging to the same household or at most two other visitors and two children = at most two adults and two babies as there are only two chairs in the visiting room.

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.

A visit is generally applied by using the form available on the cell terminal Doris. In wards which do not have cell terminals, a visit is applied by using a form received from the prison staff. The visit usually lasts 45 minutes, but in a special situation, it can last 90 minutes at most.

Video communication is supervised.

7.3 § Unsupervised visits

A time for an unsupervised visit must be reserved from a prison officer of the ward. A visit is generally applied by using the form available on the cell terminal Doris. In wards which do not have cell terminals, a visit is applied by using a form received from the prison staff. The application form has to be submitted to the superior of the ward **two weeks** before the requested visiting time.

Unsupervised visits are arranged on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 10.00–14.00. For a special reason, visits can also be arranged at other times.

7.4 § Communication via video connection

Prisoners may be given permission to communicate via video connection.

Communication via video connection is generally applied by using the form available on the cell terminal Doris (in wards which do not have cell terminals, it is applied by using a form received from the prison staff). The application has to be left **by 7.30 on Wednesday preceding the applied time**. Communication via video connection lasts 30 minutes and is arranged on Sundays. It can start at 9.15, 9.50, 10.25, 11.00 or 11.35.

When communicating via the VideoVisit service, prisoners are not allowed to have any means to take notes or transmit written messages without the permission of the staff. During a VideoVisit call, the use of additional communication devices is prohibited. This includes, for instance, the caller's smart devices. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for violating the aforementioned rules.

7.5 § Receiving goods during visits

Prisoners are allowed to receive and give a small amount of goods on the day of a visit. The reception and giving of goods always happen under the supervision of the prison staff.

When assessing the quality and quantity of the property to be received, the provisions on the possession of property referred to in section 11 of these prison rules, the limitations of the storage facilities in the prison, and the fire load caused by the goods are taken into consideration.

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 inside the prison is prohibited. The possession of tobacco product and lighting devices is prohibited. 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 cell. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed on a prisoner for attaching objects elsewhere in the cell.

Electrical devices have to be switched off when leaving the cell.

11 § Use of the cell terminal

The misuse of the cell terminal means breaking the cell terminal (including the laptop, power cord = charger, internet cable, headphones and mouse), making the personal user identification available to other prisoners, using another prisoner's user identification, taking the cell terminal away from the space (cell) where it is ordered to be kept, and giving the personal cell terminal to another prisoner for use. A disciplinary punishment may be imposed for misusing the cell terminal. Breaking the equipment intentionally leads to liability for damages in the following manner:

- Laptop: EUR 564
- Charger: EUR 59
- Headphones: EUR 12.50
- Internet cable: EUR 8

In addition, the head of prison may impose a waiting period before the prisoner gets replacement equipment. Intentionally broken equipment is verified by prison staff.

The messaging system available on the cell terminal Doris operates daily from 7.00 to 23.00.

12 § Possession of property

12.1 § 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 means. These include, among others, computers, mobile phones, smartwatches 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 and substances that can cause a cleanliness, health, or fire hazard. These include, among others, tattoo equipment, animals, plants, candles and self-made snus.
- 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 and clothes 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.

12.2 § 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 amount of property stored in the storage facilities of the prison is limited to a maximum of 2–3 bags per prisoner. The policy is based on fire safety and the limited capacity of the storage facilities. Property that cannot be stored is sent to a place specified by the prisoner at prisoner's expense.

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.

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 50 copies of all recordings (including CD, DVD, Blu-ray and game console games), 5 copies of books, and 5 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.

13 § Prison wards

Pyhäselkä Prison has the follow wards:

- MOS1 Sentenced prisoners, 14 prisoner places for men
- MOS2 Sentenced prisoners, 15 prisoner places for men
- MOS3 Remand prisoners, 15 prisoner places for men
- MOS4 Sentenced prisoners, 15 prisoner places for men
- OS 5 Remand prisoners, 10 prisoner places for men (closed ward, primarily for remand prisoners segregated for reasons related to an investigation)
- OS 6 Remand prisoners 7 prisoner places for men
- OS 7 Sentenced prisoners 10 prisoner places for men
- Reception (travel cells and one cell for disabled people)

In accommodation wards 1–4 and wards 6–7, each ward has its own shared living room, kitchen and shower facilities. In those wards, the prisoners can use the telephone when the wards are open.

In ward OS5 and reception, the calling times are usually on weekdays between 11.30 and 14.00 or at another time agreed with the staff.

14 § 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.

15 § Entry into force

These prison rules enter into force on 1 November 2025 and repeal the prison rules that entered into force on 3 February 2025.