


<p><u>NH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</u> POLICY AND PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE</p>	<p>CHAPTER <u>Enforcement Operations</u> STATEMENT NUMBER <u>5.26</u></p>
<p>SUBJECT: INMATE MAIL SERVICE</p> <p>PROPONENT: <u>Christopher Kench, Director</u> <i>Name/Title</i> <u>Commissioner's Office 271-8016</u> <i>Office Phone #</i></p>	<p>EFFECTIVE DATE <u>09/15/17</u></p> <p>REVIEW DATE <u>09/15/19</u></p> <p>SUPERSEDES PPD# <u>5.26</u></p> <p>DATED <u>10/01/08</u></p>
<p>ISSUING OFFICER:</p> <p> <i>William Wrenn, Commissioner</i></p>	<p>DIRECTOR'S INITIALS _____</p> <p>DATE _____</p> <p>APPENDIX ATTACHED: YES _____ NO _____</p>
<p>REFERENCE NO: See reference section on last page of PPD.</p>	

I. PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for incoming and outgoing correspondence, publications, and property and to provide a process and criteria for reviewing and rejecting unauthorized materials.

II. APPLICABILITY:

To all inmates and staff.

III. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Department of Corrections to allow inmates to send and receive correspondence, publications and property through the United States Postal Service or regulated parcel carriers, according to all applicable laws, policy and procedures and regulations.

IV. PROCEDURE:

A. Responsibility

1. A responsible individual will be designated as the Mail Officer or Mail Service Unit Supervisor for each confinement facility.
2. The Mail Officer/Supervisor is responsible for the operation of the Mail Service Unit, including the completion of the Facility Incoming Legal Mail Log (Attachment 2a) and Outgoing Legal Mail Log (Attachment 2b) for legal mail received or leaving the facility, withheld mail log (Attachment 3), notice to inmates regarding Literary Review Committee (LRC) decisions and the supervision of all assigned personnel.
3. The Mail Officer/Supervisor will report to the facility Warden through an established chain of command.
4. Incoming and outgoing mail may be withheld from the stream of mail for referral to the LRC or for further investigation. Unless subject to one of the exceptions described below (or permitted by a separate PPD), inmates whose mail is withheld will be notified in writing of that decision. When

second-class periodicals (newspapers, magazines, etc) or 3rd or 4th class or other bulk mail are withheld, that information will be posted in the units or blocks. When first class documents or packages are withheld, an inmate will be notified within ten (10) days of the date the mail was withheld. The written notice shall include:

- a. Inmate name
- b. Item description (letter or package)
- c. Other contents, if any
- d. Date the item was pulled
- e. Reason why the item was pulled
- f. The other person's (sender's or recipient's) name
- g. Whether the item was "held in the mail room or sent to another location".

The Mailroom Officer/Supervisor will ensure completion of the notice. The same information shall be kept in the withheld mail log for first class letters and packages (see Attachment 3).

5. At their own expense, inmates may request one copy of the existing withheld mail log entries pertaining to them for a particular date or timeframe. The log shall be maintained in the mailroom for a minimum of sixty (60) days. Thereafter, the log will be archived.

B. Mail Security Screening

1. All incoming and outgoing mail is subject to being opened and read. All mail will be routinely inspected for contraband, except for privileged correspondence and legal mail as specified below (see IV F and G).
2. Incoming correspondence must use standard white copy, printer, or loose-leaf paper or standard stock blank postcards. The following forms of correspondence are therefore prohibited: (a) greeting cards; (b) postcards featuring any type of printed design, picture, or depiction; (c) any unusually thick paper or stationary.
3. Incoming correspondence must be written in pen or pencil. Incoming correspondence containing any marking(s) using anything other than a pen or pencil is prohibited. Incoming correspondence using any of the following is therefore prohibited: (a) marker; (b) crayon; (c) colored pencil; (d) glitter; (e) chalk; (f) lipstick; (g) sticker; (h) any type of adhesive material.
4. Incoming correspondence that contains any indicia of Suboxone or other drugs and contraband is prohibited. For example, a drawing or other writing that (a) uses unreasonable amounts of ink or pencil, (b) contains shaded areas, or otherwise masks portions of the paper in ink or pencil is prohibited.
5. Incoming correspondence may contain photocopies of colored pencil or crayon drawings, photocopies of paintings, or photocopies of greeting cards, provided that such correspondence does not violate any other provision of this policy.
6. Any visible discoloration/stain on the postcard or on the paper letter/document shall cause that mail to be rejected.
7. All stamps on any postcard shall be removed from the postcards prior to delivery to the inmate.
8. Information obtained from inspection of such mail will not be divulged, except as deemed necessary in conducting an investigation or judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding.
9. Any material provided to investigative agencies will be handled and processed as physical evidence in accordance with applicable laws and rules and regulations.
10. Incoming or outgoing inmate mail/magazines/books that meet any of the following criteria will be withheld. Obvious violations found by the mailroom or property room staff may be rejected immediately. The reason/s for the rejection shall be noted on the Rejected Material form (Attachment 1). Questionable material and appeals related to rejected material shall be forwarded to the LRC or Investigations for review, consistent with the notice provisions in IV A (4).
 - a. Descriptions or depictions of procedures for the construction or use of weapons, ammunition, bombs, incendiary devices, or other items that might constitute a security hazard.
 - b. Materials that depict, encourage, or describe methods of escape from correctional facilities, or contain blueprints, drawings or similar descriptions of locking devices of penal institutions,

- and other materials that might assist escape.
 - c. Descriptions or depictions of procedures for brewing alcoholic beverages, or the use, procurement, and/or manufacture of drugs and drug contraband.
 - d. Any material that violates postal regulations, make unlawful threats, or attempts at blackmail or extortion.
 - e. Any material that contains contraband as defined by this policy or other regulations.
 - f. Any material pertaining to gambling or lottery instruction/facilitation.
 - g. Documents written in code or instructions on how to write in code.
 - h. Descriptions or depictions that encourage activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption.
 - i. Materials that encourage or instruct in the commission of criminal activities or are in violation of the rules of conduct for prisoners.
 - j. Unauthorized solicitation of gifts or goods from a person other than the inmate's family.
 - k. Any material or correspondence that relates to inmate/Prison organized groups/unions.
 - l. Correspondence constituting or contributing to the conduct or operation of a business, except correspondence necessary to protect the property or funds of the inmate during confinement or for educational purposes.
 - m. Contents that would, if transmitted, create a clear and present danger of violence and physical harm to persons or property, or severe psychiatric or emotional disturbance to an inmate.
 - n. Obscene material as determined and defined by the LRC, the Commissioner, or a court of law.
 - o. Inmate to inmate mail.
 - p. Sexually explicit and/or offensive material that would be detrimental to the treatment of inmates or that would encourage or educate inmates in deviant or unlawful sexual practices will be not permitted. Suspected detrimental material shall be reviewed by the sex offender treatment clinical staff member to confirm the decision to reject.
 - q. Security threat group correspondence or materials.
11. Mail forwarded to the Investigations Unit will be reviewed to determine the appropriate disposition.
- a. Material that will become part of an official investigation will be retained as evidence. Both the sender and the intended recipient will be notified by Investigations staff within ten (10) working days that the material is being held as evidence, unless making the notification will jeopardize the investigation, in which case a written exception must be sought from the Director of Professional Standards or higher authority. In the event that the exception is not approved, the inmate will be given written notification within ten (10) days of the date of that decision or the mail will simply be forwarded to him/her.
 - b. Material that does not constitute a meaningful violation of paragraph 2 above will be returned to the Mail Officer with instructions to forward it to the addressee or to reject it. If the material is held less than ten (10) days, it shall simply be forwarded to the inmate.
 - c. Inmate to inmate mail may be retained by the Investigations Unit and is not subject to the notification requirement. Facilitators of unauthorized inmate to inmate mail may be subjected to disciplinary actions.
 - d. Material that the Investigations Unit has determined should be rejected will be returned to the Mail Officer with an explanation for rejection together with instructions to notify both the sender, if known and the intended recipient of that action, consistent with this policy. Notice to the inmate and the sender shall be from the mailroom using the Rejected Mail Form (Attachment 1). In the case of withheld outgoing mail, the recipient shall not be notified.
 - e. Material that may violate paragraph C3 below will be sent back to the Mail Officer with instructions to route the material to the LRC.
12. The following documents addressed to inmates shall be accepted by the Mail Officer and forwarded to the Administrator of Programs of the facility where the inmate is housed:
- a. Birth Certificate

- b. Passport
 - c. Certificates of Naturalization
 - d. Social Security Cards
 - e. Drivers Licenses
 - f. Non-Driver License Identification issued by the NH-DMV
13. Material that does not violate this policy may not be rejected solely because its content is religious, philosophical, political, social, sexual, unpopular or repugnant.
 14. Because tearing out rejected or offensive portions of personal mail, publications or printed materials can create animosity and ill will, it may be reasonable to exclude the entire document. However, if an unauthorized item (i.e. compact disc, map, etc) can be removed without damaging the personal mail or publication it will be removed and the mail forwarded. The unauthorized item will be destroyed without notification unless it is forwarded for investigative purposes, in which case notification will be made in accordance with this policy.
 15. Any outgoing publication or material determined to be a violation of these guidelines shall be returned to the inmate unless otherwise unsuitable to be returned, in which case it shall be destroyed at the discretion of the warden or retained as evidence by the Investigations Unit.
- C. Literary Review Committee
1. The Commissioner shall appoint a committee to review questionable incoming or outgoing mail to include publications, books, pictures, or documents according to the guidelines established by this policy. The Committee shall be composed of four (4) members: a representative from security, mental health, and education/programs and a facility Librarian/Media Generalist. It is preferred that committee members hold an Associate's Degree or higher level degree preferably in the area of behavioral health or have undergone extensive training specific to behavioral health. The members serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner, with no defined length of service.
 2. Review Criteria:
 - a. Obscene material, as determined by the LRC, the Commissioner, or a court of law, and including publications containing explicit descriptions, advertisements or pictorial representations of sexual acts involving penetration, bestiality, bondage, sadomasochism, or sex involving children and including, but not limited to material that violates RSA 650:1, will not be permitted.
 - b. Sexually explicit and/or offensive material that would be detrimental to treatment of inmates or that would encourage or educate inmates in deviant or unlawful sexual practices as determined by the sex offender treatment clinical staff will not be permitted.
 - c. Nudity or sexual depictions that violate no other provisions of this policy and/or which have scholarly, medical or purely artistic value may be admitted.
 - d. Any materials that may jeopardize institutional security.
 3. The committee will meet on a monthly basis if necessary, or more frequently at the discretion of the Committee Chair.
 4. There shall not be an excluded list of publications. Each issue of a subscription shall be reviewed separately. A list of previously reviewed books/magazines that have been accepted/rejected by the LRC shall be maintained. The LRC shall also establish a guide of what is acceptable or not acceptable material which shall be posted in all housing units and in the facility library. This guide is a concise summary of this PPD, intended only to help assist the inmate when making a purchase of a book/magazine. It does not guarantee that the book/magazine will be accepted into the facility. All decisions of the LRC are governed by this PPD and not by the guide. The Committee shall provide the Mail Officer at each facility and the Library with a list of rejected publications.
 5. Materials will be reviewed by designated facility staff and questionable materials will be listed on attachment 5 of this policy noting the reason why and page number(s) of the objectionable material then forwarded to the LRC. Materials forwarded to the committee will be kept in a secure storage area as designated by the facility.
 6. The committee will review the materials and create a notice of materials that are being rejected also

noting the reason why and page number(s) of the objectionable material. This notice will be posted on the housing units.

7. The decision of the LRC shall set the standard for all DOC facilities unless overruled upon appeal and shall override any prior decision to allow or reject the material into a facility. Inmates in possession of material that received prior approval that has now been rejected by the LRC shall be required to send the material out or it will be destroyed.
8. The LRC will return the materials to the NHSP/Men mailroom and forward the notice of rejected materials to staff for posting.
9. Decisions with regard to second class periodicals or 3rd or 4th class or other bulk mail shall be posted in the units or blocks. Decision with regard to first class envelopes or packages shall be sent to the inmate. LRC decision slips for envelopes or packages will include an area for DOC staff to list each letter or package at issue, the name of the individual or business the envelope or package was "sent to" or "received from" and the reason each envelope or package was rejected. The rejected mail form should be used for this purpose (Attachment 1)

D. Publishers Only Rule

1. All publications and other approved material may be introduced into the mail by a bona fide publisher or bona fide bookstore and prepaid by direct subscription only. All must be prepaid and postage paid, and delivered through the United States Postal Service. Personal letter tapes and COD packages will not be accepted. Items that have been re-packed or delivered by other sources will not be accepted.
2. An exception to this rule is as follows:
 - a. Newspaper articles, internet printings and photocopies are authorized if they do not violate any other standard of this policy. However, the amount of pages will not exceed the 10 that are authorized in section IV E. 2 of this policy.
 - b. This article must be no larger than standard letter size of 8 1/2 x 11".
 - c. The articles must not be altered in any form; i.e. pasted, taped, stapled, etc.
 - d. Mail found to be in violation of this rule will be returned to the sender if the sender's information is readily identifiable.

E. Mail Limitations

1. When the cost is borne by the inmate, there is no limit on the volume of letters an inmate may send or receive, including restrictions to language, content or source of mail or publications, except when there is a reasonable belief that the limitation is necessary to protect public safety or institutional order and security. The volume of mailed material that may be kept in the housing units may be limited for fire and safety reasons.
2. Incoming inmate mail will be limited to 10 pages in length per letter.
3. Packages may be received from book or mail order firms unless otherwise prohibited by this or other policy. Packages are limited to 15 pounds and may not contain any unauthorized item.
4. Correspondence and/or exchange of monies between inmates of any institution and/or offenders under supervision of the NH Department of Corrections are not authorized. Inmates who are immediate family members may correspond upon written approval from the warden.
5. Bulk mail that advertises or solicits any item or service that inmates are not authorized to receive will not be forwarded to the inmates but will be removed from the institution and destroyed. Mail order catalogs of popular vendors will be available for use in the library. The Warden can make exceptions to this policy.

F. Privileged Correspondence

1. Correspondence between an inmate and a privileged correspondent will not ordinarily be inspected. However, it shall be opened in the presence of the inmate when considered necessary to insure the authenticity of the correspondent and to check for contraband. In any case, it will not be opened outside the presence of the inmate unless the inmate specifically waived this privilege in writing or it is an emergency. Mail in privileged status must be clearly addressed to or received from one of the thirteen (13) privileged classifications in this PPD.

2. The following is a complete list of agencies or individuals classified as privileged. Mail addressed as indicated will not be opened for inspection except in the inmate's presence and may be sealed before deposit in the mail collection boxes. Addresses marked with an asterisk (*), do not required postage.
 - a. President of the United States, Washington DC;
 - b. Vice President of the United States, Washington DC;
 - c. Members of Congress addressed to appropriate office;
 - d. The Attorney General of the United States and regional offices of the Attorney General
 - e. Federal or State Courts*;
 - f. The Governor and Council of the State of New Hampshire, State House, Concord, NH 03301*;
 - g. The Attorney General of the State of New Hampshire, State House Annex, Concord, NH 03301*;
 - h. Commissioner of the Department of Corrections*;
 - i. Members of the State Parole Board*;
 - j. Members of the New Hampshire General Court (House of Representatives, Legislators, Senators *at the Legislative Office Building);
 - k. County Attorneys;
 - l. Doctors and medical staff of the Department of Corrections*;
 - m. Doctors and medical staff not on the staff of the Department of Corrections.
 - n. Law Enforcement Agencies
3. The word "PRIVILEGED" must be written on the address side of the envelope in order to assure privileged handling in either in-bound or out-bound mail.
4. For security concerns, mail from outside sources to inmates shall be received in regular mail envelopes. Mail in courier or inter-office routing envelopes will be forwarded to investigations.

G. Legal Mail

1. Correspondence between an inmate and their attorney(s) will not ordinarily be inspected. However, it shall be opened in the presence of the inmate when considered necessary to insure the authenticity of the correspondent and to check for contraband. In any case, it will not be opened outside the presence of the inmate unless the inmate specifically waived this privilege in writing or it is an emergency.
2. The phrase "LEGAL MAIL" must be written on the address side of the envelope in order to assure confidential handling in either in-bound or out-bound legal mail.
3. Each facility will record all incoming legal mail on the Incoming Legal Mail Log (Attachment 2a).
4. Each unit will record all incoming legal mail on the Unit Legal Mail Delivery Log (Attachment 2c). Each inmate will sign the log signifying receipt of incoming legal mail. If an inmate refuses to sign, the delivering staff will write "REFUSED" in the signature block.
5. Each unit will record all outgoing legal mail on the Outgoing Legal Mail Log (Attachment 2b).
6. Each facility will also record all outgoing legal mail on the Outgoing Legal Mail Log (Attachment 2b).
7. Incoming "legal" mail found in violation of this policy shall be forwarded to investigations for appropriate action with the person(s)/firm(s) involved.
8. The amount of legal mail an inmate may possess shall be limited according to NH DOC Policy and procedure Directive 9.02 (N).

H. Non-Privileged Outgoing Correspondence

1. All inmate outgoing mail must be processed through the Mail Services Unit.
2. All non-privileged outgoing mail is subject to inspection. All correspondence not specifically identified and protected as privileged correspondence or legal mail is non-privileged.
3. All non-privileged outgoing mail of any kind must be placed in the unit mailboxes or collected unsealed. Non-privileged sealed mail will be inspected and returned to the inmate if he/she can be readily identified. If the inmate cannot be identified, the mail will be discarded.

4. At no time will inmates handle, contact or otherwise process mail of other inmates. However, inmates may be directed to carry mail bags and packages under the direct supervision of staff.
5. Unit staff will maintain mail boxes or collection practices for outgoing mail.
6. Mail will be picked up six (6) days a week, except holidays.
7. Inmates must pay postage on all mail that cannot be delivered in the messenger mail system.
8. All mail will be stamped on the envelope as follows:
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE (full facility name)
This mail is forwarded from the (facility name). The contents have not been evaluated and the (facility name) is not responsible for the substance or content of the enclosed correspondence.
9. All outgoing mail will have the inmate's full name as displayed on the inmate ID card, identification number, facility name and address in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope. Full name means the name that appears on the inmate ID card. Nicknames, shortened names or initials will not be accepted. Mail not meeting these criteria, will be rejected.

I. Incoming Mail

1. All incoming mail to inmates must be processed through the mail unit for inspection. In order to process incoming mail efficiently and correctly, all incoming mail is required to have the inmate's full name and ID number as part of the mailing address. Mail received without the ID number will be returned to sender as having insufficient address.
2. Except for lawful and authorized communications regarding unauthorized and/or illegal mail, the confidentiality of mail contents will not be discussed or divulged by personnel assigned to duty in the mail inspection area.
3. The Mail Officer shall:
 - a. Screen all incoming mail.
 - b. Open non-privileged correspondence and inspect it for contraband, checks and money orders.
 - 1) Contraband will be removed and processed according to the current PPD governing inmate property control (9.02), used as evidence for disciplinary action, processed with the Investigation Unit or destroyed, as appropriate.
 - 2) Checks and/or money orders will be removed, logged in the "mail services checks and money orders journal" (A-15 Form) and sent to the Inmate Account Office. If an inmate, through legal mail or regular mail receives a check, the check will be forwarded to the designated area/staff member to be logged. All cash received in the mail will be treated as contraband.
 - 3) Letters and packages that contain photographs or pictures of children or adults unclothed or nearly unclothed will be rejected and returned to sender with all contents. Exception: pictures of unclothed or nearly unclothed adults in acceptable books/magazines.
4. The property officer shall:
 - a. Log all packages upon receipt at the Property Room (Attachment 4).
 - b. Inspect all incoming packages and remove all contraband and unauthorized property.
 - c. Dispose of all contraband and unauthorized property according to the current policy governing Inmate Property Control (9.02).
 - d. Books, periodicals and recordings (tapes, discs or records) are not permitted to be sent in packages or letters. Books, magazines, periodicals, and newspapers will not be accepted unless packaged and mailed by a bona fide publisher by direct subscription only.
 - e. Except for packages mailed or shipped directly from an approved publisher, vendor or manufacturer, the State of New Hampshire or the Department of Corrections or any of their employees will not be responsible for any incoming package to inmates whether mailed through the United States Postal Service or shipped through a regulated parcel carrier such as United Parcel Service, Federal Express, etc. unless the package has been mailed "Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested" or properly received by the parcel carrier.
 - f. No COD (Cash on Delivery) items are accepted for inmates. All items must be pre-paid.

5. Any incoming mail that contains items that are not authorized to be sent through the mail, cannot be checked for contraband without being destroyed or contains unauthorized items will be returned to the sender and logged in the mailroom. If the sender cannot be readily identified, the addressee will have an opportunity to have the item(s) sent out at their own expense. A grace period of 30 days will be allowed before the material is destroyed.
6. No privileged or non-privileged mail will be delivered to inmates while they are on suicide watch. Non-privileged mail shall be placed in their personal property. Privileged mail shall be logged into the legal mail log where it shall be noted that the mail was placed in their personal property. It shall be noted on the legal mail log that the inmate was "unable to sign" for it. They shall receive all of their mail when they are off suicide watch.

J. Forwarding Correspondence

The mailroom will forward all first class mail and packages to inmates who have been transferred. It is the inmate's responsibility to file a change of address form with the USPS when they are released.

K. Mail Delivery (Incoming)

1. At no time will inmates handle, contact or otherwise process mail of other inmates.
2. Unit Supervisors will establish a procedure to insure the timely delivery of mail to inmates living in their respective units. It is the inmates' responsibility to insure that they are present for mail call or make arrangements with the unit staff if their work schedule conflicts with the unit mail call.
3. The Mail Officer will deliver all incoming mail into the custody of a staff member in each housing area according to a schedule. Mail will be delivered six (6) days a week, except holidays. Mail will be delivered within 24 hours of receipt in the mailroom.
4. Staff in each housing area will insure that mail is given directly to the individual inmate (addressee). Mail will not be left in an unsecured and/or unsupervised location at any time. All mail (privileged and non-privileged) will be immediately re-opened in front of a staff member or by a staff member in front of the inmate and the contents removed. The empty envelop will be immediately disposed of in the trash at that location. The trash will be emptied immediately after mail call.

L. Package Delivery

1. At no time will inmates handle, contact or otherwise process packages of other inmates.
2. The Property Officer will make a reasonable effort to notify inmates - addressee of the time(s) to pick up packages at the property area within a reasonable amount not to exceed 10 working days, excluding weekends and holidays.
3. The Property Officer will insure that packages are given directly to the individual inmate - addressee. The packages will be immediately re-opened in front of the Property Officer or by the Property Officer in front of the inmate and the contents removed. The packing material will be immediately disposed of in the trash at that location. The trash will be emptied immediately after the packages are delivered.

M. Rejected Mail/Packages

1. When incoming mail/packages, other than bulk, third or fourth class mail, is rejected for any reason, the originator, if readily identifiable, will be notified of the mail rejection by the respective Mail or Property Officer. (See IV A & C).
2. When outgoing mail/packages is not processed in the normal manner the inmate involved shall be notified that his or her mail/package was not forwarded and the reason for that action by the respective Mail or Property Officer. (See IV A & C).
3. The originator of either inbound or outbound mail may protest the action taken on the mail/package to the Warden of the facility. The decision of the Warden shall be final. The originator retains the right to appeal to the commissioner pursuant to DOC policy and/or Administrative Rules.
4. All notices of rejected or non-processed/unforwarded mail and/or packages must be in writing and specifically cite the reason(s) for the rejection or non-processing. (See IV A & C).

N. Appeals

1. Mail/Packages

If an inmate or correspondent believes that the LRC or the Investigations Unit improperly rejected mail or packages, he/she may appeal within 10 days of the date they were sent notice of the LRC and/or Investigations Unit's decision to the warden of the facility where the mail was sent or received for a review of the basis of the rejection. If the warden does not overturn the decision, the inmate will have ten (10) days from the date of the decision to send out the material. If after ten days the material is still under DOC control, it will be discarded / destroyed or returned to the sender at the inmate's expense, at the department's discretion.

2. Books and Periodicals

If an inmate or correspondent believes that the LRC or the Investigations Unit improperly rejected a book or periodical, he/she may appeal within 10 days of the date they were sent notice of the LRC and/or Investigations Unit's decision to the Director of Security and Training for a review of the basis of the rejection. If the Director of Security and Training does not overturn the decision, the inmate will have ten (10) days from the date of the decision to send out the material. If after ten days the material is still in the mailroom, it will be discarded/ destroyed or returned to the sender at the inmate's expense, at the department's discretion.

3. Any appeal to the Warden/Director of Security and Training must include the following information:

- a. Inmate's name
- b. Item and other contents, if applicable
- c. Date mail pulled
- d. Name of the person to whom the letter or package was sent, if applicable
- e. Why the item was pulled
- f. Item's location.

Without this information, the Warden/Director of Security and Training/mailroom may be unable to process the request and the material may be returned to the sender or destroyed, at the department's discretion.

4. If an inmate wishes to pursue an appeal of the decision of the warden or Director of Security and Training, to the Commissioner, the inmate must file a grievance with the Commissioner according to PPD 1.16.

5. It is the inmate's responsibility to notify the Warden or Director of Security and Training if he/she wishes to appeal the decision of the Warden/Director of Security and Training to the Commissioner. Otherwise, rejected mail may be sent out or destroyed, at the facilities discretion. Similarly, it is the inmate's responsibility to notify the Warden or Director of Security and Training if he/she wishes to file a court claim after receipt of the Commissioner's decision. The Warden or Director of Security and Training shall direct the mailroom to preserve the material as evidence. Inmates are responsible for maintaining any mail (in original form) that he/she believes should have been sent out but that is, instead returned to him/her.

O. Postage

1. All quarantine inmates will be allowed to process two cash withdrawal slips for first class postage even though they would not yet have an inmate account balance. Their inmate account will reflect a negative balance for these two transactions until the first deposit is made into their account.
2. All other inmates must purchase stamps for first class mail through the inmate canteen. Cash withdrawal slips for postage from all inmates, except those in quarantine will only be accepted for packages and oversized envelopes

REFERENCES:

NH Administrative Rule COR 301.05

Standards for the Administration of Correctional Agencies

Second Edition Standards

2-CO-5D-01

Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions

Fourth Edition Standards

4-4487; 4-4489 thru 4496

Standards for Adult Community Residential Services

Fourth Edition Standards

4-ACRS-6A-06 thru 6A-09

Standards for Adult Probation and Parole Field Services

Third Edition Standards

Other

KENCH/lb

Attachments