



# HANDBOOK

for Foreign Prisoners in Thai Prisons





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## Forward

Dear Foreign Prisoners,

As the Department of Corrections, it is our responsibility to provide care, custody, and control of all inmates, regardless of their nationality. Over the years, we have witnessed an increase in the number of foreign prisoners in Thai prisons, and we acknowledge that your cultural and societal backgrounds may differ from those of our local inmates. We understand that being incarcerated in a foreign country can be challenging, and it is our duty to ensure your well-being and safety throughout your time in the Thai prison system.

The purpose of this handbook is to offer guidance on life inside Thai prisons, facilitate your understanding of cultural differences, and acquaint you with the rules and regulations governing our correctional facilities and society as a whole. Our aim is to equip you with the necessary knowledge for a successful rehabilitation process and a smooth reintegration into society upon release.

I want to emphasize that this handbook does not imply different standards for foreign prisoners. Instead, we respect and acknowledge the uniqueness of your cultural background and individual circumstances. Our commitment is to treat all inmates fairly and support your journey towards becoming law-abiding citizens.

I sincerely hope that this handbook proves to be a valuable resource during your time in our correctional system. Should you have any questions or require further assistance, our dedicated staff is here to support you.

Wishing you strength and determination as you work towards a positive and hopeful future.

Sincerely,

*Ayuth Sintoppant*

(Ayuth Sintoppant)

Director General

## Introduction

Welcome to “Life in Prison: A Handbook for Foreign Prisoners in Thailand.” This comprehensive guide is designed to support foreign individuals who are incarcerated within the Thai prison system. Whether you are new to the prison environment or have been here for a while, this handbook aims to provide knowledge and practical advice to navigate your imprisonment.

Covering a wide range of topics, this handbook includes essential information for your journey through the Thai prison system. From entry procedures to potential release, we’ve compiled valuable insights to assist you at every step. Topics include reception and classification procedures, prison regulations, communication and visitation guidelines, health and well-being, safety and security, cultural considerations, consular and legal support, and frequently asked questions.

We understand that being imprisoned in a foreign country can be challenging, so we aim to help you understand the complexities of the Thai legal system and prison environment.

Please remember that while this handbook provides valuable information, prison systems and regulations may vary, and individual circumstances are unique. We encourage you to seek advice from legal professionals, prison officials, and other resources to ensure accuracy.

Throughout your time in prison, know that you are not alone. Various support systems, including prison officers and consular officials, are here to assist you. By staying informed and seeking help when needed, you can navigate this challenging period with resilience.

We hope this handbook serves as a valuable companion, empowering you to make informed decisions and work towards a successful reintegration into society upon your eventual release.

Wishing you strength, resilience, and the best possible outcome in your journey through the Thai prison system.

Best regards,

Foreign Affairs Team

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## Section 1 An Overview: Life in Prison

This section provides an overview of what you can expect during your time in prison. We'll cover several important aspects, including the process of entering the prison, safety tips, some cultural aspect, basic rules and regulations and living arrangements. Additionally, if you have any specific needs as a prisoner, we'll briefly touch on how your life in prison could be.

# Life in Prison : From Reception to Release

**Coming in to prison**



**1**

Upon your arrival, you will undergo a process that verifies your identity and assesses your health status as follow.

- Reception and Intake Process
- Health Scanting
- Prisoner Classification Process
- Orientation about prison rules and regulations

**Visitation is crucial to the rehabilitation process.**

You can list up to 10 visitor names. There are two types of visits: personal and professional visits.

**2**



**Visitation**

**Correspondence**



**3**

It is essential to adhere to the set rules and procedures when it comes to sending and receiving mail and filing complaints and grievances in prison.

Additionally, it is imperative to inquire about the guidelines for mail and filing complaints and grievances with the facility's authorities.

**Incarceration prohibits the carrying and usage of cash.**

To acquire products or groceries, a book account is necessary. Two methods are available for funding the account: receiving money from visitors or earning it through work and vocational training.

**4**



**Money** ₪ \$

**Meals**



**5**

At the prison, you can expect access to safe drinking water and receive three meals daily.

Freshly prepared meals are available daily with options for both regular and halal diets. You can also purchase condiments and food items from the commissary/buy-ups. Your embassy may arrange a special meal for you on special occasions such as National Day or religious holidays. However, please note that this is limited to one meal per person and must comply with the prison's regulations.

**Rules and regulations in prison exist to ensure the safety, order, and well-being of prisoners and staff.**

To be informed, it is essential to familiarize yourself with contrabands and prohibited items, breaches of discipline, and daily routines.

**6**



**Prison Rules and Regulations**

**Activities**



**7**

Prisoners are offered a range of activities, including exercise programs, religious services, educational opportunities, access to foreign language books through the library, computer use, volunteer work, vocational training, and work within the facility.

As a prisoner in Thailand, you must be aware that the Department of Corrections holds the authority and reserves all rights to relocate you to a different prison for various reasons.

You should consult with your embassy to request a transfer. Be informed that the Department of Corrections takes these petitions seriously and will conduct a thorough review before deciding whether or not to approve the relocation.

**8**



**Domestic Relocation of Prisoners in Thailand**

**Getting Released**



**9**

Prison authorities will provide instructions and assistance to ensure a proper and orderly discharge process.

**Please Consult with the Embassy /Consulate of your Nationality**

**10**



**International Transfer of Prisoners**

## Coming into Prison

### Reception and Intake Process

When you arrive, you will be seen by Correctional Officers in the reception area.

You will be searched. A newly admitted prisoner having money, or valuable items, such as a mobile phone or any other personal belongings, needs to pass them to the officers or ask families or relatives to take care of them. The officers will conduct a personal search. Officers of the same gender as you will check you. They may ask you to take off your clothes for inspection. You must be aware that there is a list of prohibited items you must not bring any of them into prison - a penalty will be applied. If you have any medication or medical equipment needed for continuous treatment, you might be allowed only after the inspection and examination carried out by medical staff.

You will go through the registration process. The officer will interview you and check your personal details including name, nationalities, offenses, or accusations. They will collect your fingerprints.

### Health Screening

Medical staff including a doctor, nurse, or prison officer who received health screening training will see you and ask about your medical condition and any problems you have. Tell the nurse if you are on any medication, are suffering withdrawals from alcohol or drugs, have any medical problems and have pre-existing medical conditions, medication, and diseases.

#### **Important!**

You can only bring doctor-prescribed medication for your pre-existing condition into the prison. We can only accept

prescription from doctors certified by the Medical Council of Thailand or the Embassy. They are also required to provide proof of their credentials to the prison staff for confirmation. In terms of emergency or urgent situations, you can ask our medical staff in that prison to approve your prescribed medication.

## Orientation

You will also be given information over the next few days that will answer some of the questions you may have. Examples of information you will be given during the induction include: Visitation, Prison Rules and Regulations, Programs available, Work opportunities.

### Important!

It's important to understand that once you enter the prison, your rights and freedoms are limited compared to being outside. Please remember that you are now in a different environment, and your rights may be restricted. Rest assured, all inmates are treated equally within the prison. While the embassy acts as a coordinator, it does not hold authority over the prison. The prison itself has the power to make decisions and take actions under its jurisdiction.

## Safety Tips

When you are new in prison, it's important to prioritize your safety and well-being. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

- **Observe and Learn:** Take the time to observe and learn about the prison environment, rules, and social dynamics. Pay attention to the behavior and interactions of other prisoners to better understand the prison's culture.

● **Respect Boundaries:** Respect the personal space and boundaries of other prisoners. Avoid getting involved in conflicts or confrontations, and be mindful of cultural differences that may exist within the prison population.

● **Stay Neutral and Avoid Cliques:** While it's natural to seek companionship, it is advisable to remain neutral and avoid aligning yourself with specific groups or cliques. By maintaining a neutral stance, you can reduce the likelihood of being drawn into conflicts between different factions.

● **Build Positive Relationships:** Seek to establish positive relationships with both prisoners and staff members. Treat others with respect and kindness, and try to find common ground. Positive relationships can provide support and assistance during your time in prison.

● **Follow Prison Rules:** Familiarize yourself with the prison rules and regulations. Adhere to these rules at all times to avoid disciplinary actions and potential conflicts. Compliance with the rules shows respect for the prison's authority and contributes to a safer environment.

● **Keep Personal Information Private:** Be cautious about sharing personal information with others. Guard your privacy and avoid disclosing sensitive details about yourself, your family, or your case. This precaution helps protect yourself from potential exploitation or harm.

● **Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Stay alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Be mindful of who you interact with and maintain situational awareness to identify potential risks or threats.

- **Seek Support:** If you feel unsafe or have concerns, reach out to prison staff or trusted individuals who can offer guidance and support. Report any incidents or suspicions of misconduct to the appropriate authorities.

Remember, safety should always be your top priority while in prison. By staying vigilant, respecting others, and following the rules, you can help create a safer environment for yourself and those around you.

## **Respect the Thai Culture**

As with any culture, it is essential to be mindful of cultural sensitivities when interacting with Thai people. Thailand has a rich and unique cultural heritage that shapes the attitudes and behaviors of its people. Here are some cultural sensitivities to keep in mind:

- **Respect for the Monarchy:** The Thai people hold their monarchy in high regard and deeply respect their royal family. Avoid any disrespectful comments or actions towards the monarchy or any images of the King and other royal family members.
- **Wai Greeting:** The traditional Thai greeting is called the “wai,” where palms are pressed together in a prayer-like gesture. It is used as a sign of respect and courtesy. When receiving a wai from someone, it’s polite to return the gesture.
- **Hierarchy and Respect:** Thai culture places a strong emphasis on hierarchy and respect for elders, teachers, and those in positions of authority. Use appropriate titles and honorifics when addressing people, especially those older than you or in positions of power.

- **Buddhism:** Buddhism is the predominant religion in Thailand, and the majority of Thai people are Buddhists. Temples and religious sites are considered sacred, so dress modestly and behave respectfully when visiting them.

- **Head and Feet Etiquette:** The head is considered the most sacred part of the body in Thai culture, while the feet are seen as the lowest. Avoid touching people's heads, and never point your feet at others, especially elders or religious objects.

- **Saving Face:** Thai people value harmony and saving face. Avoid causing embarrassment or confrontation in public. Criticizing or challenging someone openly can be seen as disrespectful.

- **Tone of Voice:** Raising your voice or displaying anger in public is generally frowned upon. Thais tend to communicate in a more indirect and gentle manner.

- **Shoes Off Indoors:** It's customary to remove your shoes before entering someone's home, temples, and certain businesses.

Remember that while these are general cultural sensitivities, individuals may vary in their beliefs and attitudes. Being observant, respectful, and open-minded will go a long way in fostering positive interactions within Thai prison.

## **Clothing**

On weekdays, prisoners are required to wear uniforms. There are two colors of uniforms indicating different types of prisoners: brown uniforms for those awaiting trial and blue uniforms for convicted prisoners.

## Haircut

Haircutting practices in prisons are essential in maintaining order and upholding regulations. While respecting individual circumstances, correctional facilities ensure consistency and fairness in their approach to inmate grooming by following these guidelines.

Upon admission, you are required to have their haircut within the first seven days. After that, you will be required to maintain your haircut; therefore, you will get a haircut at least once a month. In terms of Hairstyle, there will be style that you need to follow.

- Male Inmates:

Male inmates must maintain short hair, with the front and middle sections not exceeding 5 centimeters and the sides closely shaved. Hair clippers with a maximum blade size of number 2 should be used for these haircuts. For male detainees and short-term offenders serving up to 30 days, haircuts should also maintain short hair, with the front and middle sections not exceeding 5 centimeters.

- Female Inmates:

Female inmates may have hair up to 10 centimeters past their earlobes as long as it is kept neat and does not extend beyond their shoulder.

- Transgender Inmates:

For individuals who have completed gender reassignment and are segregated from other inmates, their hair should adhere to the guidelines for male or female inmates, depending on their reassigned gender. However, any decisions regarding whether an individual has undergone complete gender reassignment should be based on medical consultation.

- Non-Gender-Conforming Inmates:

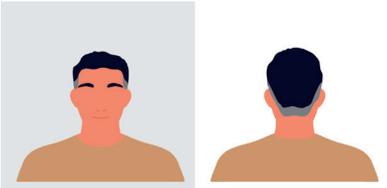
For individuals who have not completed full gender

reassignment or identify with a gender different from their assigned sex at birth, their hair must be cut or styled according to their assigned gender at birth.

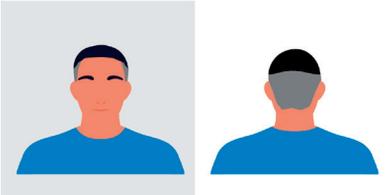
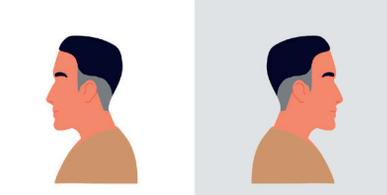
- Hair Coloring

In general, inmates are not allowed to dye their hair unless it is necessary to disguise naturally white hair. In these cases, the inmate is responsible for covering the expenses. The prison may provide hair dye products to facilitate this.

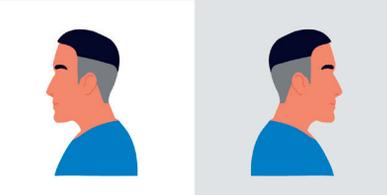
- Male Inmates



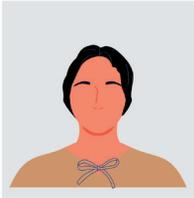
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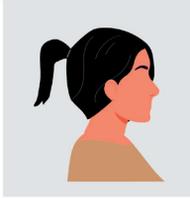
Sentenced Male Inmates



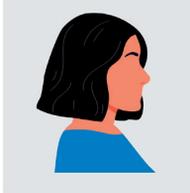
- Female Inmates



Remand Female Inmates



Sentenced Female Inmates



## Remarks

If you have specific beliefs or requirements regarding haircuts and are in a situation where it may be a concern, it's essential to communicate this respectfully and clearly to the appropriate authorities. They should be willing to work with you to find a solution that respects your beliefs while also considering security, maintaining orders and safety concerns within the prison environment.

## **In the Cell Room**

### **Sleeping Area and Bedding for Inmates**

Sleeping arrangements and bedding provisions are essential for your well-being of inmates. In these prisons, inmates usually sleep on the floor together with other inmates in a shared sleeping area. To prevent the smuggling of prohibited items, the Department of Corrections provides each inmate with three blankets that serve as a pillow, a sheet, and a blanket.

Each sleeping area has a designated Room Representative to facilitate communication and address any issues that may arise. Inmates can approach the room representative to report problems or express concerns. The room representative acts as a liaison between the inmates and the prison administration, helping to maintain order and resolve any issues within the sleeping area.

When you're in the sleeping area, you usually stay there for about 14 hours before you can come out in the morning. It's important to know that during this time, you're not allowed to have food or any banned things with you. This rule helps keep things clean, prevents waste from piling up, and makes sure the area stays safe by not allowing forbidden items.

Before you go into the sleeping area, you'll go through a thorough search, including a search of your body, to find and take away any banned or unauthorized things. This is done to keep things secure and create a controlled environment in the sleeping area.

To keep you entertained, there's often a TV in the sleeping area that plays shows and movies that were recorded beforehand. This lets you pass the time and enjoy information and entertainment while you're there.

## Shower and Toilet Space

- Shower Facilities:

Showering is an important part of staying clean, and it's required for all inmates. You'll need to shower twice a day: once in the morning and again before lockup. The shower area is an open space where you'll find other inmates. Some facilities have a communal shower area with a shared basin. On average, showers usually last 3 to 5 minutes.

- Toilet Facilities:

The bathrooms in the prison have communal areas with squat toilets. These toilets don't have doors to prevent unwanted activities and ensure everyone's safety and security. This setup is the same throughout the facility. Some prisons have special accommodations like standard toilets for elderly and disabled inmates to meet their specific needs.

- Transgender Considerations:

We understand that transgender inmates have unique needs. The Department of Corrections is committed to respecting your gender identity and will try to accommodate your requirements. If you're a transgender inmate, we encourage you to talk to a correctional officer about your specific needs. They will help you find a suitable time to shower and use the restroom, according to the prison rules and regulations.

- Staying Clean:

While the shower and toilet areas may lack complete privacy, it's important to prioritize personal hygiene. These facilities are meant to meet the basic needs of all inmates. Although conditions may not be perfect, they are designed to promote cleanliness and prevent health issues.

- Respecting Others:

It's crucial to respect other inmates' privacy and personal space when using the shower and toilet areas. Consider their needs and keep the environment clean and orderly. By following these guidelines, we can all contribute to a more harmonious living environment within the prison community.

## **If you are a prisoner with specific needs**

### **Pregnant Women**

If you are a pregnant prisoner, you have the right to receive proper care and treatment during your pregnancy and after giving birth. According to the Regulations of the Department of Corrections on Pregnant and Breastfeeding Prisoners, the prison authority is responsible for providing necessary prenatal and postnatal care. This includes access to doctors and healthcare professionals for health check-ups and vaccinations. When it is time to give birth, you will be taken to a designated hospital outside the prison.

### **Breastfeeding Women**

Prisons understand the importance of breastfeeding and will support and encourage you in this process. They will provide all the necessary items and services for breastfeeding. There will be a separate section dedicated to pregnant women where you can comfortably breastfeed your baby.

### **Children in Prison**

If you are responsible for a child under the age of 3 born during your time in prison or under your care, they are considered a child accompanying a parent in custody. Our primary concern is ensuring the child's welfare, safety, and access to a nurturing environment.

Therefore we suggest to send your child to your family. Sometimes, due to various circumstances, it may not be possible for your family members or relatives to take care of the child. In such cases, you can submit a petition to the prison director, requesting permission to raise your child in the prison.

Our prison director will review each case individually to determine whether it is necessary and appropriate for the child to remain with you inside the prison. We will handle each case with care and consideration, always striving to make decisions in the best interest of the child.

If you decide to place your child in someone else's care or for adoption, written consent must be given in three copies. One copy will be kept by you, one by the prison authority, and one by the person or organization taking care of the child. If you are a foreign prisoner, the prison authority will contact your embassy or consulate to ensure the child's legal status and acknowledge the person or organization responsible for caring for the child.

In situations where the prison authority is unable to find a suitable person or organization to take care of the child, they will involve the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. They will work together to determine the best course of action for the child's well-being, always prioritizing the child's best interests.

## **Transgender Prisoner**

We want to treat transgender prisoners fairly and respectfully. If you identify as transgender, it's important to understand the following guidelines:

- The process of admitting other individuals follows the regular steps and standards for accepting prisoners into prisons.

- Prison officers will give you information about the usual rules and routines. When conducting searches, it's important to follow the regular steps and be careful to avoid having any forbidden items or substances with you.

If you are a non-gender-conforming inmate, medical officers will be the ones to assess and determine your gender. Please understand that their decision will be the final one.

- In most cases, transgender inmates will be separated to ensure their safety and the safety of others, following the instructions below:

- During the daytime, allow the prisoners to engage in activities according to their interests, similar to other regular prisoners, while being under close supervision and control of the prison staff.

- During nighttime, keep the confinement separate and distinct from other prisoners as specified by the prison authorities.

## **Elderly**

In many prisons, we make sure to provide accessibility and support for elderly prisoners. In Thailand, if you are over 60 years old, you are considered an elder. If you require any assistance such as spectacles (glasses), dentures, a cane, or a wheelchair, please don't hesitate to seek help from the medical staff and prison officers. We are here to support you and ensure your well-being during your time in prison.

It needs to emphasize that the Department of Correction makes every effort to create a welcoming environment for elderly prisoners and provide you with the necessary social support. We understand the unique needs they may have, and our goal is to assist you in your

daily routines and ensure your mobility is well-supported. We also organize activities specifically designed to accommodate your abilities and preferences.

## **Disability**

We aim to enable incarcerated persons with disabilities to participate in daily activities and be involved in the disciplinary community while receiving care under their rights and the law.

- **Basic Welfare Services:**

Necessary welfare amenities for the daily life of persons with disabilities within the correctional facility include consumables, daily necessities, and medical equipment, including walking aids and wheelchairs.

- **Healthcare Support:**

Provision of counseling and guidance services to address the healthcare needs of persons with disabilities.

- **Access to Disability Development Centers:**

Persons with disabilities can receive services from disability development centers within the correctional facility. These centers are equipped to provide care and facilitate the development of incarcerated persons with disabilities.

Please note that these services' availability and specific details may vary depending on the correctional facility. We are committed to providing appropriate care and support to incarcerated persons with disabilities in our custody. Please consult the correctional officers or medical staff if you have further questions or require additional information.

## Section 2: Things You Need to Know

This section will cover important topics related to your prison experience. From handling your passport and identification to visits, correspondence, money management, meals, drinking water, the welfare shop, prison rules and regulations, and your health and well-being. These topics are very crucial to you while you are in prison and you need to be informed.

### Communication with Embassy/Consulate

While you are in prison, it's recommended to stay in touch with your embassy or consulate. They can offer valuable guidance and support, including updates on the status of your passport and identification documents. In case of emergencies or urgent situations, the embassy or consulate can be a valuable resource to address your concerns.

To contact your embassy or consulate, you will need to write a letter expressing your request. We will ensure that your letter reaches them. However, it's important to understand that the response time and ability to visit or fulfill your needs may vary depending on your embassy or consulate's policies and availability. We will do our best to facilitate communication, but their assistance will be subject to their own processes and capacity.

### Handling Your Passport and Identification

Upon your arrest and subsequent arrival at the prison facility, it is standard procedure for the authorities to retain your passport and identification documents as evidence. These documents serve as proof of your identity and are necessary for legal and administrative purposes.

If you wish to track down your passport, ID, or obtain proof of your nationality, we recommend that you seek assistance from your embassy, consulate, or legal representation. They can provide guidance and help you navigate the necessary procedures to address these matters.

## **Visitation**

Most of the Thai prisons, visits must be booked. You should be given details about visits to your prison. Please ask the officers if you have any questions.

Your visitors should contact the prison before coming since:

- Visits are sometimes canceled without notice.
- You may have been moved to another facility.
- The length of your visit may be limited.
- Some prisons only have visits on certain days.

Please be aware that your conversations are deemed to be listened to by the officers. You may be asked to speak the language that prison officers are able to understand. If you could not speak that language, you might need to contact the embassy to provide you the translation supports.

## **Your Visitors**

You will be asked to provide a list of 10 (ten) visitors who can come to visit you at the prison and also be able to prove the relationships between you and your visitors. This approved name list will be registered in the prison visit systems.

Apart from the list, other visitors might be able to visit you depending upon certain circumstances, which the director of the prison

will consider on a case-by-case basis. However, you might be asked to prove the relationship between you and unlisted visitors due to security and safety purposes. This depends on the rules and regulations of the prison.

## **Type of Visits**

### **1. Personal visit**

- Normal visit

You are permitted to see visitors on a date and time set by the prison authority. The length of time can be varied for each prison.

- Remote visit

Most prisons can facilitate remote visits via videoconference platforms such as Skype and LINE Application. Please ask the officers if you have any specific questions.

- Contact Visit (In-prison visit)

A Contact Visit is a face-to-face visit where you can have actual contact with your visitors. On the event, you and your families can sit and have a meal together at the prison on special occasions. It will be provided to prisoners who are qualified and well-behaved.

Contact visits are usually scheduled twice a year. The prison will announce the event and you can make a reservation beforehand.

- Special Contact Visit for Foreign Prisoners

For foreign prisoners whose family members and relatives are unable to participate in the scheduled event due to travel restrictions and expenses, your embassy or consular affairs can submit a letter requesting a Special Contact Visit on your behalf. However, there are requirements, for example, a piece of evidence that you have not received any contact visits for more than 12 months.

Your visitor's travel documents show that they come to Thailand for the visit purpose and a specific time period.

## **2. Professional visits**

- Visits from Law Enforcement Officers eg. Police officers
- Visits from Lawyer and Legal Representative
- Visits from Embassy and Consular Representatives

You can seek assistance from your country's embassy or consulate. The prison authorities are required to allow them to visit you. However, please note that only diplomats and consulate staff from your own country are permitted to visit.

Each prison has a designated area where consular visits take place. To arrange a visit, your embassy can directly contact the prison. They will request permission and schedule an appointment to meet with you.

### Further Information

- Conjugal Visit (Overnight Stay)

According to current Thai laws and regulations, conjugal visits are not permitted in the Thai prison system.

- Interpreters

If you need an interpreter or a translation dictionary, you can ask a staff member. If you would like to request certified interpreters, please ask your embassy or consulate.

## **Searching after Visits**

You will be searched before and/or after the visits; your visitors will be searched as well. If your visitor is found bringing contraband

into the facility. The visit can be terminated, and restrictions placed on you and your visitor. This can also happen if the officers consider your visitor's behavior to be inappropriate.

## **Correspondences**

You are allowed to write, receive, and read letters or other written messages while in prison. However, there are rules to keep everyone safe and maintain order.

- The number of pages and letters you can send or receive depending on rules and regulations of the prison.
- Prison officials have the power to check, censor or remove certain parts of your letters, documents, parcels, or other communications to protect prison security and public order.
- Correspondence may be exempt from rules that letters need to be opened and searched. Complaints and Petitions that file through the official body of the prison's rule and regulation can be an example. Please contact staff for further information.

### **Important!**

If the letters are written in a foreign language, it may take longer to send and receive letters. This is because the prison authorities need to consult with relevant authorities to ensure the messages don't contain any security risks. They want to prevent escape plans, disturbances, riots, or any criminal activities that could harm others. These measures are taken to create a safe environment for everyone involved.

## Money

Inside the prison facilities, carrying and using cash is not allowed. Instead, you will need to have an account known as a ‘book’ to make purchases of products or groceries from the prison shop.

There are specific rules and regulations regarding the maximum amount you can have in your account and the spending limits. To get more information about these limits, please inquire with the prison authorities. They will be able to provide you with the necessary details and guidelines regarding managing your account and making purchases within the prison.

### Important!

To deposit money into your account, we can only accept Thai Baht. Unfortunately, the prison authorities are unable to assist with money exchange. If you require assistance with currency exchange, we recommend reaching out to your family, embassy, or consulate for help in this matter.

## Deposited Money from Your Visitors

If family members, relatives, or friends wish to deposit money into a prisoner’s account, they have two options. Firstly, they can provide cash during a visit to the prison. Alternatively, they can make a deposit at any branch of Krung Thai Bank (KTB). However, please note that the procedures may vary in some prisons, so it’s advisable to contact the prison authorities for specific guidelines and information regarding these matters.

## Earning Money from Your Work or Vocational Training in Prison

Prison work and Vocational training are highly valued in the prison system for rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Not only does it enhance your skill set, but it also provides an opportunity to earn a wage. Participation in work is voluntary, whether it is non-profit or profit-oriented. In the case of profit-oriented work, after deducting expenses, prisoners are entitled to receive remuneration from the net profit.

The money you earn from work inside the prison will be deposited into your own 'book' which you can pay for any buy-ups available in prison. Or you can save it for when you are released.

## **Meals**

### Meals: Nourishment and Special Considerations

This section contains important information about the meals provided in the prison facility, including details about specific dietary needs.

- **Daily Meals:**

You will receive three meals every day in the prison. These meals are prepared fresh and with cleanliness in mind. Since the prison primarily serves Thai cuisine, the main part of each meal is white rice, which provides carbohydrates for energy. The meals are carefully planned to follow nutrition standards and give you balanced nourishment.

- **Halal Meals:**

If you follow the Muslim faith, the Department of Corrections provides Halal meals that meet Islamic dietary laws and guidelines. These meals are prepared with consideration for religious beliefs.

- **Special Occasions:**

On special occasions like National Days or religious holidays, you may be able to arrange a special meal. This can be done through your embassy or family, but it should be just one meal per person and

must follow the prison's rules. The special meal should not contain any prohibited items or ingredients according to the prison authorities. The authorities reserve our rights to search for any prohibited items and reject any special meals that do not comply with the prison's regulations. This is necessary to maintain security and ensure the safety of all inmates. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to these guidelines.

- Special Dietary Needs:

The prison recognizes the significance of meeting special dietary needs, particularly for elderly inmates or those with specific medical conditions. If you have any special dietary requirements, please submit a written request to the Correctional officer. They will make necessary arrangements to accommodate your needs to the best of their ability, following the instructions given by the medical personnel.

- Drinking Water:

Safe drinking water is provided for all inmates. The water quality is regularly checked by external organizations like the Ministry of Public Health or the Provincial Waterworks Authority to ensure it is safe and pure. Drinking water is also available in the sleeping areas for your hydration and well-being.

## **Commissary/Buy-ups**

In prison, there is a store called the “welfare shop” or commissary. This is where prisoners can buy things they need for themselves. Since cash is not allowed in prison, prisoners use the money from their accounts to make purchases. They do this by using their identity such as prisoner id or your fingerprint as a way to identify themselves. When they buy something, the cost is taken out of their account.

When your family or relatives visit you, they can order groceries and other items from a list in the visiting room. They will pay for these items. Later on, you will receive the things they ordered and paid for, making sure you get what you need.

### **Important!**

Vapes, Cigarettes, and Tobacco Products are not allowed inside our prison facilities.

## **Prison Rules and Regulations**

There are rules and regulations that foreign prisoners should adhere to.

### **Contrabands and Prohibited Items**

You are not allowed to have on you, or bring in prohibited items including;

- Narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and volatile substances as well as the equipment for using such items.
- Alcohol or other intoxicants.
- A weapon, firearm, ammunition, explosive firework, and artificial firearm.
- Gasoline or other substances causing fire.
- Computer, telephone, or other communication devices including equipment for these items.
- Gambling devices.
- Items that are rotten or poisonous.
- Money/cash

- Tattooing devices
- Items that may cause damage to the prison or public order and good morals.

If you are found with a prohibited item. It will be seized and you may be breached or charged with an offense.

## **Breaches of Discipline**

Breach of discipline can include things like disobeying an officer, gambling or taking medication that is not yours. If a breach is proven, you may be reprimanded, lose your privileges, or have separate confinement.

If you commit any disciplinary offense, there are several ways a prisoner can be punished:

1. Admonishment: The prisoner receives a warning.
2. Delayed promotion: The prisoner's progress to a higher prisoner class is postponed for a certain period.
3. Moving down a class: The prisoner is moved to a lower prisoner class.
4. Limited visits and communication: The prisoner may be denied visits or communication for up to three months, except for contacting a lawyer or for women prisoners to stay in touch with their children, as allowed by the law.
5. Reduced or suspended benefits: The prisoner may have some or all of their benefits, rewards, or certain items taken away or stopped.
6. Solitary confinement: The prisoner may be put in a separate cell alone for a maximum of one month.

7. Denied sentence reduction: The prisoner may lose the chance to have their time in prison reduced.

## **Searches**

While you're in custody, there will be occasional searches of you, your cell, and your belongings. These searches can be either a scanning search or a general search.

- Personal searches can happen anytime, like when you leave a kitchen or workshop area. During a personal search, officers of the same gender as you will check you. They may ask you to take off your clothes for inspection.

- Body searches are done by a medical officer and a nurse. At least one of them will be the same gender as you. The Officers can order a body search in specific situations:

- If they think you've swallowed something that could harm your health.

- If there's suspicion that you're hiding something prohibited.

- If a search can uncover evidence of a disciplinary offense.

The authorized medical staff can remove any item(s) if they think it's safe to do so during the search.

- Cell search will be done during the daily cleaning.

## Daily Routines

Every prison follows its own unique daily routine. The Daily Routines are subject to change due to each prison's conditions, special events, and specific circumstances. Here are some sample routines provided in our prison.

### Weekday

Time	Activities
05.30 am	Wakeup call, Cell unlocked and Muster check
06.00 am	Personal activities, laundry
06.30 am	Exercise
07.00 am	Breakfast
08.00 am	Assembly for Flag Raising Ceremony accompanied by the Thai National Anthem
08.30 am	Studying, vocational training, working and joining other rehabilitation programs each prison provides
12.00 pm	Lunch
01.00 pm	Studying, vocational training, working and joining other rehabilitation programs each prison provides
03.30 pm	Playing sports and taking a shower
04.00 pm	Dinner
05.00 pm	Muster check and Cell locked-up

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
06.00 pm	Stand for the Thai National Anthem, religious practices
09.00 pm	Lights out

## **Weekend**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
05.30 am	Wakeup call, Cell unlocked and Muster check
06.00 am	Personal activities, laundry
06.30 am	Exercise
07.00 am	Breakfast
08.00 am	Assembly for Flag Raising Ceremony accompanied by the Thai National Anthem
08.30 am	Weekly cell and accommodation cleaning, Sports and Recreation
12.00 pm	Lunch
02.00 pm	Meditation and Religious Services
03.00 pm	Sports and Recreation
03.30 pm	Taking a shower
04.00 pm	Dinner
05.00 pm	Muster check and Cell locked-up

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
06.00 pm	Stand for the Thai National Anthem, religious practices
09.00 pm	Lights out

## **Your Health and Well-being**

Your health and well-being are essential in the prison. The Thai authorities have systems in place to provide medical care and support to prisoners.

If you have any health concerns or medical needs, it is crucial to inform the appropriate prison staff. They will help you access the necessary healthcare services and treatments available within the prison facility.

Medical clinics or infirmaries are present within the prison to offer primary healthcare, basic medical treatments, and health consultations.

As a foreign prisoner, it's important to note that you may not be eligible for the same healthcare coverage as Thai people. In such cases, specific procedures will be followed for medical treatment and payment.

- If you can afford the payment, you can request to pay for your medical expenses using the funds available in your “book” (account) by submitting a petition to the prison authority.
- If you are unable to cover the costs, the nurse may contact the embassy or consulate of your home country, or your relatives, to seek financial assistance for medical expenses.

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If you were already on medication before being admitted to prison, the authority will review and approve your medications before allowing you to continue using them.

Remember, it is important to communicate openly with the prison staff about your health concerns and follow the procedures in place to ensure you receive the necessary medical care during your time in prison.

Another thing that you need to be aware of is only generic names of medications will be prescribed within the prison facility. This means that specific brand names of drugs may not be available, and instead, medications will be prescribed using their generic names, which are the general names of the medications.

## Section 3: Activities in Prison

In this section, we will explore the various activities available to inmates to build skills and contribute to rehabilitation. From exercise activities and religious practices to education, library services, computer access, volunteer work, and vocational training programs, we will provide practical information to help you engage in productive and meaningful activities during prison. These are very crucial for your personal growth and development while you are in the correctional system.

Please be aware that the activities listed are subject to availability and may vary depending on the prison's facilities and capacity. If you require any assistance or have specific inquiries, please don't hesitate to consult the staff for more information.

### Exercise Activities

Prisons provide various exercise activities to promote physical well-being and encourage healthy lifestyles among inmates. Some of the exercise activities commonly available in the prisons include:

- **Outdoor Sports:** Inmates may have access to outdoor sports facilities such as football (soccer), basketball, volleyball, or badminton courts where they can engage in team sports and recreational activities.
- **Fitness Training:** Prisons often have fitness centers or designated areas equipped with exercise machines, weights, and cardio equipment for inmates to engage in strength training, cardiovascular workouts, and overall fitness routines.
- **Yoga and Meditation:** Inmates can participate in yoga and meditation sessions, which can promote relaxation, mental clarity, and physical flexibility.

- **Aerobics and Dance:** Exercise programs that involve aerobics, dance routines, or Zumba-style workouts may be offered to inmates, providing a fun and energetic way to stay active.

- **Martial Arts:** Some prisons may offer martial arts training programs such as Muay Thai (Thai boxing) or other self-defense techniques to help inmates develop discipline, focus, and physical fitness.

- **Walking and Jogging:** Walking or jogging tracks are available in certain prison facilities, providing inmates with the opportunity to engage in regular walking or jogging exercises for cardiovascular fitness.

- **Bodyweight Training:** Inmates can participate in calisthenics routines and bodyweight exercises that utilize their own body weight to build strength, flexibility, and endurance.

## **Religious Practice**

The Department of Corrections will do our best to honor and accommodate your religious needs with respect while ensuring the safety, security, and good order of the correctional center.

Religious and mindfulness activities are available in every prison. We promote the practice of religion by appointing qualified representatives of different faiths to visit and hold services for prisoners. These visits and services aim to share wisdom, offer guidance, pray, and teach prisoners based on their religious beliefs.

As such, every prisoner has the right to attend these services, have religious books, and engage in activities related to their faith. It is important to respect and support prisoners in their religious practices and observances.

## **Education**

If you are a foreign prisoner and would like to learn Thai or participate in other educational courses, you can inquire about these opportunities. Additional details regarding the specific programs and courses can be obtained within the prison facility.

## **Library Service**

In most prison centers, there is a library available for prisoners. However, your access to the library may vary depending on factors such as your placement, behavior, and management plans.

## **Books in Foreign Language**

You can also request books in your native language from your family, relatives, Embassy, or Consulate. However, it's essential to note that your Embassy or Consulate will need to write a letter to approve the books, ensuring they do not contain any language that could negatively impact prison security, moral values, or cultural and political sensitivities.

In our prison facility, books are generally not regarded as personal belongings. Therefore, we kindly advise inmates to be aware that books are commonly shared among the prison community. Please keep this in mind and respect the practice of sharing books with fellow inmates.

## **Computer Access**

Computer access is available in select correctional centers. We have resource computers that can be used for legal and approved educational purposes. To utilize these computers, you must make a request and undergo an approval process specific to the prison you are in.

Please note that computer usage requires registration and must adhere to the rules and regulations of the prison. It's important to mention that these computers do not have internet access.

Kindly follow the established procedures and guidelines to ensure proper and authorized use of the resource computers.

## **Volunteer Work**

As a foreign prisoner, you can volunteer as a trustee. This role involves assisting our correctional officers in various prison tasks. Trustee responsibilities may include cooking in the central kitchen, serving food to fellow prisoners, maintaining cleanliness within the prison, tending to the garden, teaching in a classroom setting, assisting with clerical work, translating, mentoring new inmates, and more. The title “trustee” signifies that you are trustworthy and have displayed good behavior. Although this work does not provide financial compensation, it offers the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of all prisoners within your prison facility.

## **Vocational Training Programs**

Vocational training opportunities are available in the form of short-term courses within the prison system. Each prison offers various types of training programs, such as,

- **Carpentry and Woodworking:** This program teaches inmates woodworking skills, including furniture making, carpentry, and woodcraft.
- **Tailoring and Sewing:** Inmates can learn basic and advanced sewing techniques, garment construction, and alteration skills.
- **Agriculture and Horticulture:** This program focuses on agricultural practices, including organic farming, vegetable cultivation, and landscaping.

- **Food Services and Culinary Arts:** Inmates can receive training in cooking, food preparation, and kitchen management skills.

- **Automotive Repair:** In this program, inmates learn automotive repair and maintenance skills, including engine repair, electrical systems, and general vehicle servicing.

- **Construction and Masonry:** This training program provides inmates with skills in construction, masonry, and basic building techniques.

- **Computer and IT Skills:** Inmates can learn basic computer skills, software applications, and gain knowledge of IT fundamentals.

- **Hairdressing and Barbering:** This program focuses on hairdressing techniques, including hairstyling, cutting, coloring, and grooming skills.

- **Handicrafts and Artwork:** Inmates can participate in various handicraft activities, such as painting, pottery, sculpture, and other artistic expressions.

- **Plumbing and Electrical Work:** This training program teaches inmates the basics of plumbing and electrical work, including installation, repair, and maintenance.

Please note that the availability of specific vocational training programs may vary depending on the correctional facility and resources available. Inmates are encouraged to inquire with the prison staff to learn about the vocational training options offered at their respective prisons.

When you first entered the prison, you may have provided personal information about your background, knowledge, and skills during the intake or admission process. This information is important

as it helps the prison staff identify your skill set and preferences. They consider this information when arranging suitable vocational training for you.

By taking into account your background, knowledge, and skills, the prison staff aims to match you with vocational training courses that align with your abilities and interests. This approach increases the likelihood of acquiring valuable skills that can be beneficial for your future.

If you have any questions or are interested in vocational training opportunities, please communicate with the prison staff. They will provide you with more information about the available courses and assist you in finding a suitable vocational training program.

Remember, vocational training can play a significant role in enhancing your abilities and increasing your prospects for successful reintegration into society.

## **Prison Works**

Working while in prison can have several benefits for prisoners. Prison work can help you to stay focused, alleviate worries, reduce anxiety, and ease frustration during your incarceration. Engaging in productive work allows you to make the most of your time and acquire vocational skills that can be useful for your future as a law-abiding citizen upon release.

Prison staff have the authority to assign prisoners to various tasks, including

- Public work
- Cleaning and sanitation work
- Prison maintenance

- Other tasks that contribute to prison management and government work

The primary purpose of these assignments is to maintain the prison's operations. The specific tasks assigned to prisoners must be approved by the prison staff in accordance with administrative regulations. Additionally, the assignments should align with the prisoner's classification and consider individual assessments, such as security risks, and physical and mental health evaluations.

Participation in work is voluntary, whether it is non-profit or profit-oriented. In the case of profit-oriented work, after deducting expenses, prisoners are entitled to receive remuneration from the net profit.

Working provides an opportunity for foreign prisoners to contribute, learn new skills, and earn income while incarcerated. It is important to comply with the regulations and guidelines set by the prison authorities regarding work assignments and remuneration.

If you have any questions or require further information about work opportunities in the prison, please consult with the relevant prison staff.

## Section 4: Your Rights

In this section, we will discuss your rights and entitlements as a prisoner. We will cover important topics such as seeking a royal pardon, filing complaints and grievances, protecting your privacy, addressing sexual assault incidents, and obtaining your documents. Understanding and exercising these rights is essential for ensuring fair treatment and safeguarding your well-being during prison.

### Seeking Royal Pardon

A royal pardon is a special grant given by His Majesty the King to convicted prisoners. This pardon can come in different forms, such as an unconditional release, a commutation, or a reduction of punishment. There are two types of royal pardon: individual and collective.

#### Individual Royal Pardon

If you are a convicted prisoner, you have the right to submit a petition for a royal pardon. The following parties can submit a petition:

- The convicted prisoner themselves, with the final judgment
- Relevant persons: parents, children, and spouse
- Diplomatic representative (for foreign prisoners only)

(Note: Lawyers are not considered interested parties)

For prisoners sentenced to death, it is important to submit the petition within 60 days after receiving the final judgment.

The Process of Individual Royal Pardon:

To submit the petition, you will need the following documents:

- A petition letter signed by the prisoner
- Supporting documents, such as certificates proving good behavior, progress in education, work or rehabilitation programs, and records confirming any illness or disability
- Certified copies of the court verdict and all final incarceration warrants (the prison officer can assist in obtaining these copies from the court, or relatives can do it on their behalf)
- Additional documents prepared by the prison officer, including a background report obtained from further investigation and the imprisonment warrant

The prison authority will forward these documents to the Department of Corrections, who will then submit them, along with their opinion, to the Ministry of Justice. The Minister of Justice will propose the petition to His Majesty the King through the Secretariat of the Cabinet and the Office of His Majesty’s Principal Private Secretary. Once the outcome of the petition is known, the Department of Corrections will notify the petitioner and take appropriate action.

Seeking a royal pardon is a significant process, and it is important to follow the required steps and provide the necessary documents.

### **Collective Royal Pardon**

In addition to individual royal pardons, there is also the possibility of a collective royal pardon. This type of pardon is granted on special occasions and significant national events, such as His Majesty’s birthday or the Royal Coronation. The procedures for collective royal pardons are conducted by the relevant authorities, and prisoners do not need to take any specific actions to be considered for this type of pardon.

During these auspicious national events, the concerned authorities carefully review cases and determine if a collective royal pardon is appropriate. This process is separate from individual petitions for a royal pardon and is solely based on the discretion and decision-making of the authorities.

If you are eligible for a collective royal pardon, the authorities will take the necessary steps to grant the pardon without requiring any action or petition from the prisoners themselves. It is important to note that the collective royal pardon is granted on special grounds and is not something that can be requested or initiated by individual prisoners.

Understanding and being aware of the different types of royal pardons, including individual and collective, can help you navigate your rights and options when it comes to seeking a royal pardon from the King of Thailand.

## **Filing Complaints and Grievances**

If you experience maltreatment or mistreatment by prison staff, you have the right to file a complaint. This can be done by writing a letter or making an oral complaint to the authorized prison staff. If your issue is not resolved promptly or in a satisfactory manner, it will be escalated to the prison director. You can submit your letter by placing it in the complaint box provided in the prison.

## **Your Privacy of Information**

Your private information is strictly protected and used internally by the Department of Corrections for purposes such as rehabilitation, healthcare, classification, and other relevant aspects of your incarceration. It will be shared solely with the embassy and consulate of your nationality to assist you and ensure your well-being. Additionally, your information may be shared with relevant government agencies

for official use only. Rest assured that your privacy and confidentiality are of utmost importance to us.

## **Sexual Assault**

If other prisoners sexually harm you while you are in prison, it's crucial to take immediate action. Here are the steps you should follow:

1. Report the incident promptly to the prison staff. Let prison staff know exactly what happened.

2. The staff may want to conduct a physical examination to gather evidence and ensure your well-being. They will also document any injuries you have.

3. The prison will initiate an investigation into the incident. They will interview you, other staff members, and any witnesses to establish the facts. They will also provide you with legal support.

If a staff member sexually harms you in a way that is not acceptable, here's what you should do:

1. Inform someone in a higher position at the prison. It should be someone with authority above the staff member involved. You can speak to them directly or ask for assistance in writing your complaint.

2. If you choose to speak in person, ensure that your complaint is recorded by the prison superintendent or another authorized person. The staff member you are complaining about should not write it down.

3. When writing your complaint, provide detailed information about the staff member, their actions, and how it has affected you. Include as much relevant information as possible.

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4. Your complaint will be treated as confidential, and your information will not be shared with others without your permission.

## **Getting Your Documents**

You can request your court documents including your personal information, and your sentence. You can also ask for the updated version of your sentence. By written only, preferably in Thai.

## Section 5: Your Benefits

This section will discuss the various benefits you may be eligible for based on your conduct and progress while in prison. These benefits include facility privileges, promotions within the prison, permission for temporary leave, reduction of imprisonment term, opportunities for vocational training or educational programs, and eligibility for parole. We will explore each benefit's specific criteria, guidelines, and conditions. Understanding and following these guidelines can enhance your prospects for early release and personal growth during incarceration.

If you demonstrate good conduct, diligence, progress in education, satisfactory work, or exceptional services while you are in prison, you may receive various benefits:

1. To be afforded facilities in the prison according to the rules of the Department of Corrections;
2. Promotion to higher classes within the prison.
3. Appointment to a position where they assist prison officials.
4. Permission to leave the prison for up to seven days at a time, with certain conditions and approval, for important business or family matters. However, they must not leave the country, and they must return within twenty-four hours after the designated period. Failure to return within this timeframe will be treated as an escape.
5. Reduction of the imprisonment term, up to five days per month. This reduction is applicable after the prisoner has served a minimum of six months or one-third of the term mentioned in the court's warrant, whichever is more. In the case of life imprisonment changed to a specific term, the minimum is ten years.

6. Reduction of imprisonment based on the number of days spent performing public work or other beneficial government service outside the prison, along with the potential for receiving rewards.

7. Eligibility for parole after serving a minimum of six months or one-third of the term mentioned in the court's warrant, whichever is more. In the case of life imprisonment changed to a specific term, the minimum is ten years. The period of parole must be equal to the remaining sentence. If there was a reduction of imprisonment under benefit (6), the reduction will be included in the parole period.

8. Permission to attend vocational training in a private company or receive educational training outside the prison, with or without a custodian. This permission is granted when the prisoner has served at least one-third of the term mentioned in the court's warrant, and the remaining sentence is less than three years and six months. The decision to grant this permission considers the convict's rehabilitation, education, and the safety of society. Failure to return within twenty-four hours of the designated period will be treated as an escape.

Procedures for benefits (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), and (8) follow specific criteria, guidelines, and conditions outlined in ministerial regulations approved by the Corrections Committee. Factors such as criminal behavior, the type and severity of the offense, and previous offenses are taken into consideration.

## Section 6: Your Sentences

### Criminal Penalties in Thailand

According to section 18 of the Criminal Code, the possible punishments that may be imposed are:

- **Death Penalty:** This penalty is carried out by administering lethal injections or poisonous substances.

- **Imprisonment:** The court can impose a prison sentence starting from the day of the verdict. However, if the convicted person was under detention before the court's judgment, the time spent in detention will be deducted from the overall prison term.

- **Confinement**

- **Fine:** The court can impose a fine as a penalty, which the convicted person must pay according to the amount specified in the verdict. If the fine is not paid within thirty days from the date of the judgment, the court may seize property to satisfy the fine.

- **Forfeiture of property** This penalty involves the confiscation of property that the convicted person used or gained through committing the offense, except for property owned by others who were unaware of the crime.

The court can also order alternative sentencing methods, such as probation or community service, depending on the nature of the offense and the offender's circumstances. Additionally, if the court finds that the offender has violated the conditions set for their penalty, the court may issue a warning, revise the sentence, or order imprisonment in place of fines to ensure compliance.

## Prisoner Classification System

In Thai prisons, prisoners are assigned to different “classes” based on the status of their case and their behavior within the prison system. These classes determine the level of benefits and privileges that prisoners can receive.

There are six classes ranging from;

- Excellent,
- Very Good,
- Good,
- Moderate,
- Need for Improvement,
- Extra Need for Improvement.

Each class carries different levels of benefits and privileges, such as eligibility for good conduct time allowance, and parole. You should familiarize yourselves with prisons’ rules and regulations, then work towards improving their behavior and conduct to potentially move up in the classes and receive greater benefits. You might also move down, if you breach the prison’s rule and disciplines.

### Your Class

As a person who is awaiting a final decision on your case, you will be known as a remandee, and you will not be assigned to any specific class. However, once you receive a conviction, your class will be determined following our established rules and regulations.

## Domestic Relocation of Prisoners in Thailand

The domestic relocation of prisoners is one of the measures used for controlling and managing inmates in accordance with the law and corrections principles. It aims to enhance the operational efficiency and utilization of correctional facilities.

The Department of Corrections has defined eight types of prisoner transfers as follows:

- Transfers for security control purposes.
- Transfers to alleviate overcrowding.
- Transfers of drug-related offenders sentenced under the Narcotic Act.
- Transfers of juvenile offenders.
- Transfers of prisoners to their home provinces.
- Transfers of prisoners for legal proceedings.
- Transfers of military prisoners.
- Transfers of stateless prisoners.

Security control and safety during prisoner transportation refer to all measures set by the Department of Corrections to ensure the effective control and safety of prisoners during transfers, preventing escape and harm to the life and property of anyone involved.

The Department of Corrections has the authority to relocate prisoners based on various factors. If you wish to be transferred to another prison facility in Thailand, you can submit a petition. The Department of Corrections will carefully review petitions from prisoners, their relatives, or the embassy to make informed decisions regarding transfers.

## International Transfer of Prisoners

Foreign prisoners who are convicted and whose home countries have a treaty or agreement on prisoner transfer with Thailand have the opportunity to serve their remaining sentences in their own countries. This process is carried out in accordance with the Procedure for Cooperation between States in the Execution of Penal Sentences B.E. 2527. The main goal of this legislation is to support the social reintegration of prisoners, helping them become law-abiding and productive members of society once they are released.

To initiate the transfer, the Receiving State must submit a petition through diplomatic channels to the responsible officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. The petition should follow the specified procedures and documentary format set by the Committee for Consideration of the Transfer of Prisoners. It is important to note that the transfer of foreign prisoners cannot occur under certain circumstances:

When the foreign prisoner's sentence includes offenses against the Monarch, the Queen, the Monarch's son or daughter, national security within or outside the Kingdom, or laws related to national art treasures.

(a) If the foreign prisoner has served less than one-third of their total sentence or less than four years, whichever is shorter.

(b) If the foreign prisoner has served less than eight years for charges related to narcotics, as outlined in the Narcotic Act, and their sentence is life imprisonment.

When the remaining sentence that the foreign prisoner must serve in Thailand is less than one year.

The Committee for Consideration of the Transfer of Prisoners

has the authority to disapprove the transfer if it is deemed to threaten national security, stability, or domestic civil order.

In cases where a foreign prisoner is required to pay fines, make property restitution, or compensate for damages according to a court judgment or the order of a competent authority, the full payment must be made before the Committee approves the transfer.

Currently, the Kingdom of Thailand has bilateral prisoner transfer treaties with 37 countries and 1 special administrative region.

The international transfer of prisoners provides an opportunity for foreign prisoners to serve their sentences in their home countries. It ensures better social reintegration and supports their transition back into society. The process follows specific guidelines and considerations set forth by the Committee, prioritizing the well-being and security of the Kingdom of Thailand.

- |              |                          |                 |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. France    | 14. Denmark              | 27. Cambodia    |
| 2. Spain     | 15. China (Hong Kong)    | 28. Pakistan    |
| 3. Canada    | 16. Switzerland          | 29. Vietnam     |
| 4. USA       | 17. Norway               | 30. Belgium     |
| 5. Italy     | 18. The Philippines      | 31. Japan       |
| 6. Sweden    | 19. Estonia              | 32. Iran        |
| 7. UK        | 20. Czech Republic       | 33. South Korea |
| 8. Finland   | 21. Australia            | 34. China       |
| 9. Germany   | 22. Nigeria              | 35. India       |
| 10. Portugal | 23. Mali                 | 36. Maldives    |
| 11. Austria  | 24. The Netherlands      | 37. Peru        |
| 12. Israel   | 25. Lao PDR              | 38. Sri Lanka   |
| 13. Poland   | 26. Eswatini (Swaziland) | 39. Romania     |

## **Procedure for International Prisoner Transfer**

If you are a foreign prisoner and wish to be transferred to your home country under the treaty, follow these simple steps:

1. Contact your embassy/consulate:

Reach out to your embassy or consulate in Thailand and express your interest in an international prisoner transfer. They will guide you through the process and provide you with the necessary information.

2. Submit a transfer request:

The Receiving State, through its embassy in Thailand, submits a transfer request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This request will be forwarded to the Department of Corrections, which handles the transfer process.

3. Document collection and examination:

The Department of Corrections collects and examines all the required documents for the transfer. They will carefully review your case and assess its eligibility for consideration.

4. Committee meeting:

The Committee for Consideration of the Transfer of Prisoners convenes to evaluate your transfer request. They take into account various factors, including the treaty provisions and the specific circumstances of your case.

5. Report and transfer order:

After the committee meeting, the Department of Corrections prepares a report summarizing the discussions. They also draft a transfer order, which will be signed by the Chairman of the Committee, who is the Permanent Secretary for Justice.

6. Transferring process:

Once the transfer order is approved, the Receiving State and

the relevant authorities will coordinate the delivery process. A transfer ceremony will be organized, marking the official handover of the prisoner to the home country's authorities.

For more detailed information and assistance with your transfer request, please contact your embassy/consulate. They will provide you with the necessary guidance and support throughout the entire process.

## **Getting Released**

When it is time for a prisoner to be discharged and released from prison, it can happen under various circumstances. Here are some cases in which prisoners may be discharged:

1. **Completion of Sentence:** When a prisoner has served the entire duration of their sentence, they will be discharged and released.

2. **Warrant of Detention:** If the warrant of detention specifies a certain period of time to be served, once that time has been completed, the prisoner will be discharged.

3. **Case Dismissal:** If a prisoner's case is dismissed, meaning the charges against them are dropped or the case is resolved in their favor, they will be discharged.

4. **Provisional Release on Bail:** In some situations, a prisoner may be granted provisional release on bail. If this happens, they will be temporarily discharged from prison until their case is further processed.

5. **Release on Parole/Good Conduct Allowance:** When a prisoner demonstrates good behavior and compliance with prison regulations, they may be eligible for parole or a good conduct

allowance. If granted, they will be discharged from prison under certain conditions.

6. Pardon: In exceptional circumstances, a convicted prisoner may receive a pardon from the appropriate authority. If this happens, they will be discharged and released.

Foreign prisoners, upon completion of their sentence, will be released. However, it's important to note that foreign prisoners may go through a deportation procedure conducted by relevant authorities. As a result, they will not be allowed to remain in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Before being released, prisoners are required to return any items that belong to the prison, such as uniforms or equipment. If a prisoner has money left in their account, they will receive their remaining funds in cash. Additionally, any belongings or valuable items that were deposited with the prison upon their entry will be returned to them.

It is essential for prisoners to follow all the necessary procedures and guidelines during their discharge to ensure a smooth transition back into society. Prison authorities will provide instructions and assistance to ensure a proper and orderly discharge process.

## FAQ

This section answers common questions posed by foreign prisoners like yourself. We understand that you may have concerns and uncertainties about various aspects of your prison experience. That's why we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions to address these concerns and provide you with the necessary information.

Please review the questions and answers provided here. If you have a question that needs to be addressed, feel free to seek assistance from the correctional officers or relevant authorities. Let's explore the frequently asked questions together and provide you with the knowledge necessary for living in prison.

### ● Where can I keep my personal belongings?

Unfortunately, prisons have very limited spaces to store your belongings. Most of the Embassy also cannot store any of your personal belongings on your behalf. The only thing they can keep for you is your passport and driver's license; however, these are usually retained at the court until the end of your sentence.

Please be aware that your passport might be kept by the court as evidence of the alleged crime or as a condition of your bail in order to prevent you from departing the country.

### ● What about my Thai Visa?

You do not need to be concerned about overstaying your Thai visa during your incarceration. The fact that you are serving a sentence in a Thai prison negates any potential charges related to overstaying your visa.

The Thai authorities understand that your circumstances have prevented you from adhering to regular visa regulations while in prison.

Therefore, you will not face additional penalties or charges for overstaying your visa during this period.

● **Is there a difference in the treatment of remanded and convicted prisoners?**

Remand and convicted prisoners are generally treated similarly, with both expected to follow prison rules. The main difference is that remand prisoners may have restrictions on participating in vocational classes. However, they can still engage in volunteer work within the prison.

● **Who would know when I am incarcerated?**

The prison will notify your embassy or consulate in Thailand of your incarceration. Suppose there is no embassy or consulate of your nationality in the country. In that case, the Department of Corrections will contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to contact the nearest embassy or consulate to assist you.

● **Should I hire fellow inmates to write a petition or as legal aid?**

Hiring fellow inmates to assist with writing a petition or providing legal aid is not explicitly prohibited, but caution is advised. While some inmates may have a legal background or experience as lawyers, it is crucial to consider that they are in the same situation as you and may not have access to up-to-date legal information.

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of legal advice, it is highly recommended to seek assistance from a legal advisor or lawyer outside the prison system. Additionally, consulting with your embassy or consulate of your nationality can provide valuable guidance and support in legal matters.

It is essential to prioritize the credibility and expertise of legal professionals when dealing with legal issues to protect your rights and ensure proper representation.

- **Is engaging in gambling a wise decision?**

Gambling is strictly prohibited in all correctional facilities, and engaging in such activities can result in disciplinary action. Despite the prohibition, gambling still occurs frequently among inmates. While it may initially seem like a way to pass the time, it is essential to remember that the odds are always in favor of the house, and the bettor almost always loses.

We strongly advise against participating in gambling activities while in prison. It is essential to understand that any debts incurred through gambling must be repaid in full, and failure to do so can have serious consequences. Suppose you find yourself in debt or facing difficulties related to gambling. In that case, we urge you to contact the correctional officers for assistance and guidance.

- **Is it a good idea to get a tattoo while in prison?**

Tattooing is strictly prohibited in prison, and engaging in or facilitating tattooing can result in disciplinary action for the tattoo artist, the client, and anyone else involved. We strongly advise against participating in this practice.

While the tattoo artist may have skills and can potentially create impressive artwork, it is vital to consider the risks involved. Getting a tattoo in prison not only puts you at risk of disciplinary consequences but there is also a high risk of painful infections and the transmission of bloodborne diseases.

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# HANDBOOK

for Foreign Prisoners in Thai Prisons