

SOME GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION ON SUPPORT OF POLLSMOOR DETAINEES

A22.8.7

A. VISITS TO DETAINEES

A1. Next of kin.

1.1 Application

- a) Must be in writing, addressed to
The Commanding Officer
Security Branch
Private Bag X14
VLAEBERG 8018
- b) Application must include the following information:
- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Detainee: | Applicant: |
| Name | Full names |
| Race | Identity number |
| Sex | Relationship |
| | Residential address |
| | Telephone no's - home & work |
| | Reason for visit |

c) Telephonic enquiries (after making the written application) should be made to Sgt de Bruyn, 24 2040. (He has been found to be helpful.)
After the application has been "processed" and granted, he is in charge of handing out the permit or delivering it. The quickest procedure is to call for it at the Security Branch Headquarters, 112 Loop street (just below Wale street). If requested, Sgt de Bruyn will usually leave the completed permit with the man on duty on the ground floor at the entrance.

(The permit is signed by Col J H Pieters, Divisional Commander, Security Branch.)

1.2 Frequency of visits

- a) Ordinary visits are strictly limited to:
- i once every two weeks; and
 - ii by the nearest family member.
- b) Special visits have been known to be granted for wedding anniversaries, birthdays and pressing domestic financial matters, etc. These have usually been in addition to the normal fortnightly visits.

1.3 What visits are like

- a) The visits are non-contact visits. That is the two persons are seated on opposite sides of a wall, can see each other but cannot speak through the wall. There is supervision by a warder/ress on each side, though sometimes only one warder/ress is present.
- b) Cards, flowers etc can be shown, but these have been known to be prohibited on occasion. None of these items may be kept by the detainee at such visits.

1.4 Route to Pollsmoor

- i Follow the Blue Route (van der Stel freeway) as far as the Tokai turnoff.
- ii Turn right up Tokai road.
- iii Take the 5th turning to the left into Glenbrae road. The boom is the prison entrance, where the guard sometimes requests your I.D.
If you do not have your I.D. with you, it may be better to try another entrance:
Instead of turning into Glenbrae road in (iii) above, turn left at the first stop street.
- iv Drive down the road past all the houses on the left. You will find the boom and a parking place on the left. You may need to park outside and walk in.

1.5 Best time to visit

A.2 Minister of religion

A minister of the detainee's religion or denomination may visit each detainee at the detainee request.

No messages should be sent via them either way.

A.3. Lawyers

B. ITEMS WHICH CAN BE TAKEN TO DETAINEES

B.1 Money

- a) Detainees can place orders for food, toiletries etc which are then purchased by the prison authorities.
- b) The discretion of the commanding officer of the prison determines the financial allowance of the detainees. At present women seem to be allowed R20 per week, whereas the men seem not to be restricted to a fixed amount.
- c) A special receipt (from a separate book) should be made out when you are handing in money, of which the prison keeps a carbon copy.
- d) Money has sometimes been accepted in advance in the women's section, e.g. if it was due to be paid on a Sunday it has been accepted on a Saturday.
- e) Money will not be accepted after about 4:00p.m. on any day.

B.2 Clothing

- a) Officially 2 changes of clothing are allowed, but this is not always strictly adhered to. It is always worth trying to get in extra items, even if the authorities do seem to be applying the quota of clothes quite rigidly.
- b) In order to vary clothing (especially if the quota is being applied) it is worth trying to ask for laundry, although this has not often been allowed, as detainees wash their own clothes.
- c) Some detainees have found it preferable to receive single items of clothing on a more frequent basis, rather than a number of once. While the contact for the detainee is important it needs to be decided whether or not this is practical in terms of trips to Pollsmoor.

d) A detainee may request clothing, amongst other things, but these requests are very often not communicated to the family. It is possible to phone the prison to ask if any requests have been made. Major van Sittert at the Women's section has been co-operative, and can be contacted at 72 1124.

NB It is understood that the Prison Authorities are meant to contact the family re clothing requests, but any other requests (e.g. medicine, messages for family etc.) have to go through the Security Branch. The latter have been found to be very lax about communicating such requests.

e) A receipt should be requested for all items handed in. As items of clothing and other things are sometimes accepted at the desk but not taken to the detainee, it is worth asking for the items to be taken straight to the detainee and that they counter-sign the receipt, which is then brought back to you. This also affords the detainee the chance of seeing the handwriting of the person who has brought the things.

f) It has been known that 2 sizes of a garment have been sent through to the detainee so that they could try them on, select the one that fitted them and send the other back.

g) The best time for delivering clothes etc is

B.3 Medicines

a) If the detainee requires special medicines, they can be obtained from the District Surgeon on request. To ensure that this happens, the detainee's private doctor should phone the District Surgeon.
The District Surgeons are:

b) Psychologists:

B.4 Other items

- a) A large vacuum flask is very useful and is worth trying to send in.
- b) Hot water bottles have been permitted. (Detainees are provided with hot or boiling water about 3 times a day.)
- c) Games (e.g. jigsaw puzzles, scrabble, cards) have sometimes been accepted.
- d) Towels have been accepted.
- e) Books - a bible or similar religious book is a legal right. In addition, a Prayer Book, Xhosa Bible, and a book on the lives of religious persons have been accepted. No other books (other than those required for study when permission has been granted) are permitted. Detainees have access to the rather limited, but tolerable prison library.

C. STUDY RIGHTS

D. APPLICATION FOR RELEASE

E. FURTHER INFORMATION

The Relief Centre can be contacted at 24 3782.

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