

Uniform Inmate Correspondence Rules (BP 3.91)

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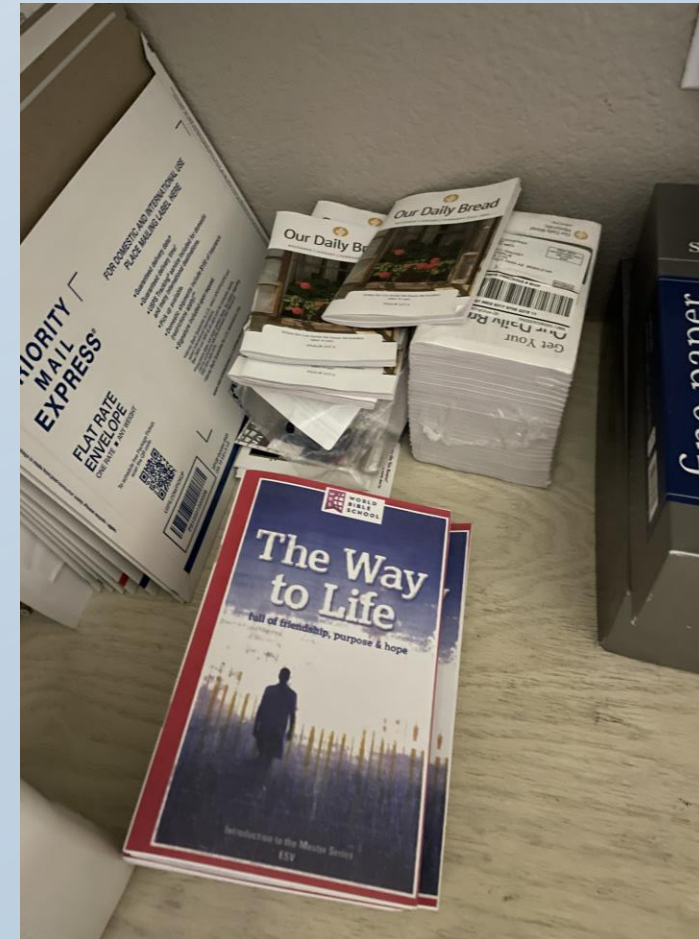


**Hidden in Plain Sight:
Stopping Contraband in Facility Mailrooms**

Books & Dangerous Contraband

Mailrooms are ground zero in the battle against dangerous contraband.

- 385 Books Tested Positive for Illegal Substances in CY 2025
- 16 Books Contained Physical Contraband in CY 2025 (excludes soaked book pages)



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Drug Labs Shipping Books

OIG investigations have uncovered drug labs that are using advanced techniques to try and circumvent TDCJ's security measures.



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Hardback Books

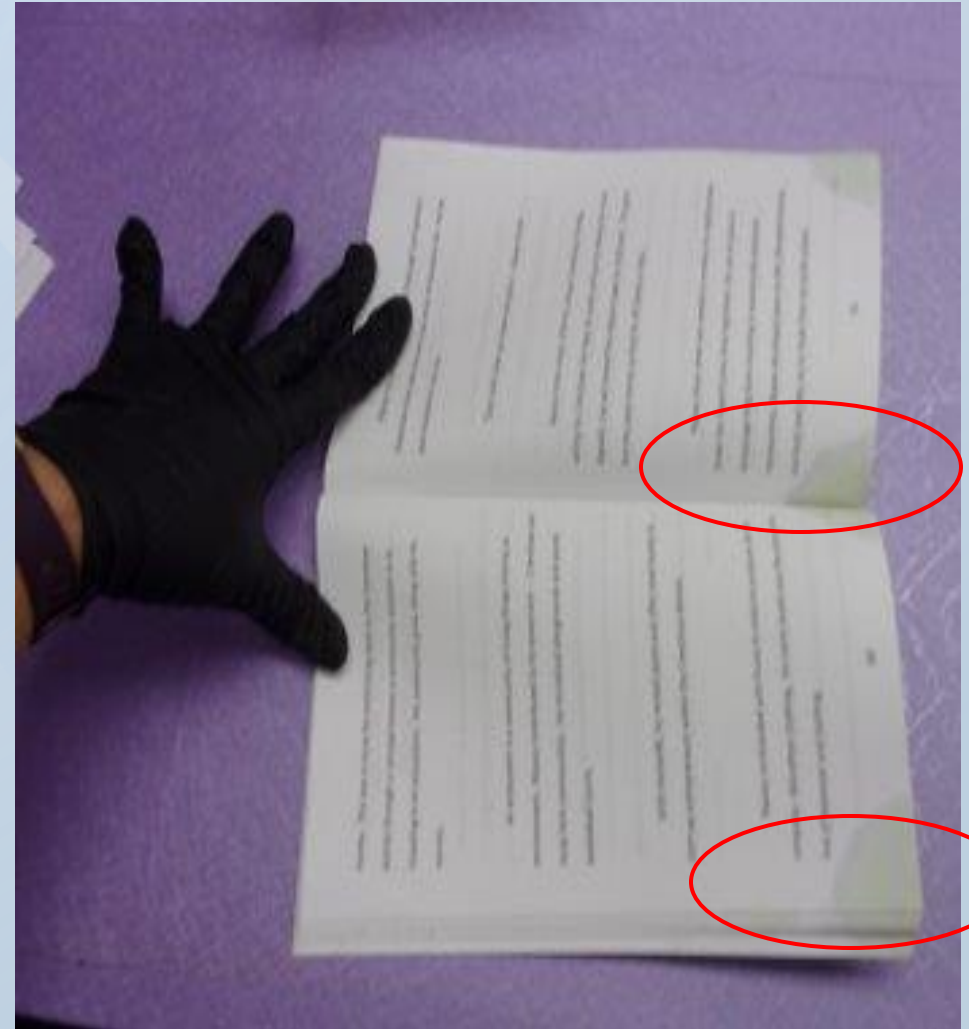
- More difficult to detect contraband
- Scatters millimeter waves
- Often larger and heavier
- Spines are reinforced with glue, cloth and other materials
- Thick covers and glued bindings provide ideal hiding places



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Used Books

- Normal wear and tear appears altered
- Stained pages require testing
- More opportunity for tampering



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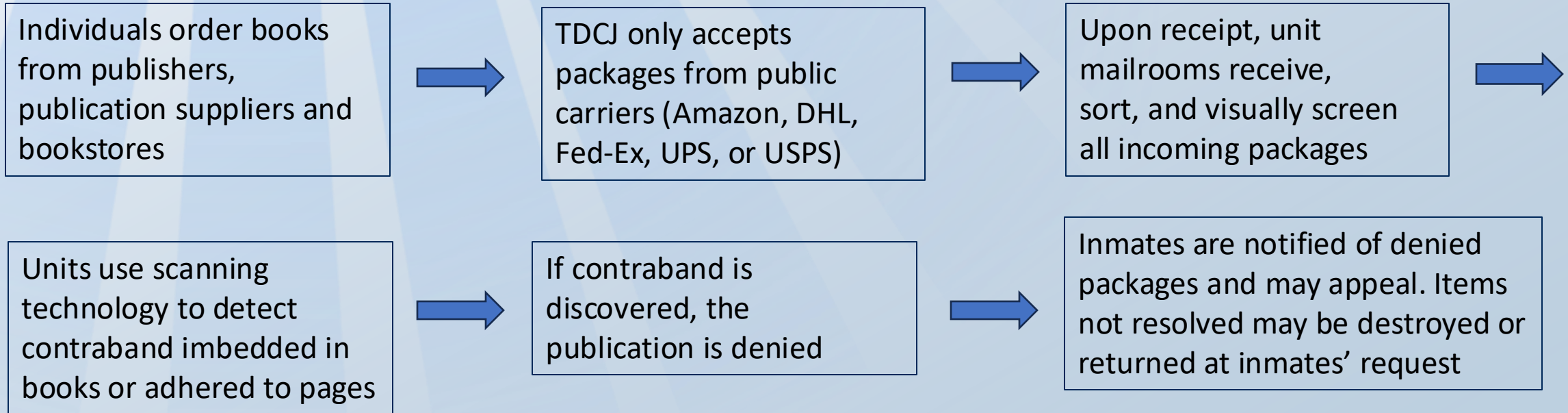
Dangerous Contraband

- Contraband has been linked to incidents of suicide, homicide, assault, and other serious incidents.
- Inmates have been discovered unconscious or even deceased with evidence of drugs delivered through books.
- The opportunities of trading contraband creates underground economies, leading to debts, extortion, and violence among inmates.
- Dangerous for staff who come in contact with substances.



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Process - Books for Specific Inmates



Inmates are not notified if dangerous contraband is discovered.
Dangerous contraband is confiscated by OIG personnel to pursue criminal charges.



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Proposed Policy Changes

- Develop an advanced notification portal to allow mailrooms to receive information on books being mailed
- Allow only softback books (exceptions made for certain education books)
- Require books to be in new condition



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Advanced Notification Portal

- Individuals create an account, and their identity is verified using a third-party vendor
- Information such as the recipient, book title, vendor name, and purchase date is provided
- Mailrooms check the portal when books and publications are received
- Operational in the summer



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Donation Process

- Web-based form on Windham School District's website for donated books
- Stored at a central location and distributed as needed
- Eases the burden on mailrooms and makes drug smuggling more difficult



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Proposed Policy Changes

Redefine “Legal Correspondence” to eliminate special handling of legal advertisements

- Processing as legal mail is time and staff-intensive; not considered confidential attorney-client mail

Define “Lewd Visual Material” to prohibit images that depict the lewd exhibition of children who are younger than 18 years of age, and have no serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value



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Questions

