



NEWS RELEASE



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Jail to cut costs and improve security by limiting inmates' mail

In a move to cut costs and boost security, the Alachua County Jail will begin requiring that inmates communicate with family, friends and pen pals by using postcards effective April 1, 2010.

Copying a growing policy shift already in place at jails elsewhere in Florida, Arizona, Kansas, Oregon, Missouri and Texas, except for privileged or legal and official government correspondence, Alachua County Jail inmates will only be able to send and receive post cards.

The move was adopted by jail administrators to ease the security and staffing burden faced by security and civilian staff who must screen all incoming mail and search for obscene photographs, drugs and contraband items as well as other inappropriate mail sent to inmates. On an average day, 300-400 pieces of mail are processed at the jail with occasional heavier days of 500-600 pieces of mail.

All incoming and outgoing mail, with the exception of privileged mail, must be in the form of a postcard only. Privileged or legal mail is described as correspondence between an inmate and their attorney, legal aid lawyer or agency, para-professionals on the staff of attorneys or legal aid agencies, judges and clerks of Federal, State and local courts, news media agencies and reporters, and public officials such as mayors, governors, sheriffs or any other elected officials.

For more information on this news release, call Eugene Morris, Public Information Officer at the jail at 352-491-4525 or go to the web site at www.alachuasheriff.org and click on Inmate Mail under the County Jail link.

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