

Section 5: Security

Subject: Contraband

Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03(11)

Revised: 10/2008, 12/2011, 09/2015

Authorized: _____ Effective date: _____
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

POLICY

The Erie County Jail Rules and Regulations Pamphlet shall specify those items which inmates are permitted to have in their possession, and/or those which they are not allowed to possess. Items that are not allowed shall be clearly defined as contraband. It is the policy of the Erie County Jail to confiscate all items that may be hazardous to the safety, sanitation and security of the facility.

DEFINITIONS

Nuisance Contraband: Can include but is not limited to the possession or introduction of:

1. Any item introduced into the facility that is not authorized by Jail Administration.
2. Excessive amount of authorized items.
3. Authorized items that may pose a health or sanitation problem.
4. Authorized item(s) that has been altered from their original state to perform a function it was not intended for.

Illegal Contraband: This can include but is not limited to the possession or introduction of:

1. Any item that is declared illegal by law.
2. Authorized item(s) that has been altered from their original state to perform an illegal function.

PROCEDURE

A. The officer who discovers nuisance contraband shall:

1. Immediately confiscate the item(s)
2. Advise the shift supervisor of the finding(s)
3. Prepare and submit a detailed report of the incident
4. Follow the directions of the shift supervisor as to the disposition of the item(s) confiscated.

B. The officer who discovers illegal contraband shall:

1. Immediately confiscate the item(s)
2. Advise the shift supervisor of the finding(s)
3. If the arresting officer is present when the contraband is found on a person, the officer should forward the illegal item(s) to the officer.
4. Illegal contraband items found after the initial pat down of a prisoner should be treated as evidence. To preserve the chain of evidence, the officer finding the illegal contraband should remain in physical possession of the item(s) until he/she properly secures it.
5. The officer who made the discovery shall submit a detailed report describing the item(s) and what led up to the finding of the contraband.
6. The illegal item should be properly secured in an evidence locker in the Evidence Processing Room of the Erie County Sheriff's Office.