

Smith, Patrick

From: Smith, Patrick
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Butler, Gayle; Guyer, Lynn; Hansen, Jennie; Keith Kaululaau
[REDACTED] Michael, Reg; Peter Bludworth
[REDACTED]; Ray, Steve; Smith, Patrick; Tom Green
[REDACTED]; Wolken, Cynthia
Subject: FW: Prison Issues Board

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Flag Status: Flagged

PIB members,

Here is another e-mail that is a comment from a member of the public for your consideration.

Thanks,

Pat

From: Andrea Melle
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Smith, Patrick
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Prison Issues Board

Thank you for accepting this letter to be submitted at the next Prison Issues Board meeting whenever that is. I wasn't sure if it would be soon since the page is not updated yet so thought I better submit this now and not wait.

Prison Issues Board- January 2020 Meeting

To whom it may concern:

I am writing about all the rule changes concerning incoming mail at Crossroads Correctional Center (CCC) and Montana State Prison (MSP). First of all, if so many changes are going to be made, it would be helpful if the facilities websites would be promptly updated with complete revised information. There is no update what so ever for CCC (been the same for 5 years) and the one on the Montana Department of Corrections concerning mail is not complete and says it is only for MSP/MWP. I have a loved one in CCC and I had a letter sent back the beginning of November for having a stamp even though the rule change for no adhesives had not been posted yet nor taken affect yet. My loved one was also told you can no longer send actual pictures by other inmates that have seen things posted but there is nothing posted in his POD so we do not know if this is true. I sent computer printed Christmas Cards to a couple people in MSP and they were both shocked they got thru since they were in color.....but there is nothing posted that says otherwise. It is shameful enough that now kids are unable to send colored pictures to their Mom or Dad or photos to our loved ones or cards for special holidays, etc. and many don't have access nor can afford to get photocopies made of these items to send, but

if we are unable to find out any information online (as calling, they are rude and do not want to help you) and our mail is refused and sent back, it is money and time wasted for something that really is not our fault if we don't know and cannot find out but yet people are threaten that they will no longer be able to send mail period if "forbidden" stuff keeps being sent. Some inmates are unaware of rules if they are not posted, maybe cannot read or have mental issues that prevent them for understanding and/or relaying these rules. These rules are unfair enough and are hurting the inmates and their loved ones as photocopies are not the same as "real" things but to not have them posted online for ALL to see and know so that our mail is refused by no fault of ours is not fair. I urge ALL facilities to get updated information concerning the rules on mail and anything else that change and to always keep it updated.

Thank you.

Andrea Melle