



State of Vermont
Department of Corrections
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Agency of Human Services

To: All Inmates Housed OOS

From: VTDOC Central Office

Date: September 27, 2018

Re: FAQ #9

Thank you to all the individuals that have reached out with questions and concerns following the release of the signed contract. While the Vermont Department of Corrections is confident that the nature of this arrangement with Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility will enable us to maintain the most suitable and secure location to house those currently housed out of state we are aware such transitions can be a source of immense anxiety to those who are incarcerated as well as their friends and family members. Please continue to reach out as needed and see below for the answers to questions that have been posed over the last week.

Reference #	Question	Answer
1.	Will inmates be allowed to keep the gray footlockers purchased in Pennsylvania, or will they be reimbursed the \$17.00 paid?	Inmates will be allowed to keep the gray footlockers purchased in Pennsylvania.
2.	Will inmates be allowed to keep the typewriters purchased in Pennsylvania, or will they be reimbursed the \$250.00 paid?	Inmates will be allowed to keep the typewriters purchased in Pennsylvania.
3.	Will inmates be allowed to keep the tablets purchased in Pennsylvania, or will these be confiscated?	Inmates will not be allowed to keep the GTL tablets purchased in Pennsylvania as the new facility does not have a system to support their continued use.
4.	Will inmates be allowed to keep the gym shorts purchased in Pennsylvania, or will these be confiscated?	Inmates will be allowed to keep the athletic apparel purchased in Pennsylvania.
5.	Will inmates with chronic mental and/or physical health care conditions continue to be housed out of state?	All inmates eligible to be housed out of state per Vermont directive #371.22 will continue to be housed out of state.
6.	Previous transports have been exceptionally uncomfortable. Will travel conditions be improved during the next transport?	The issue of comfort during transport has been discussed with the potential vendor and this factor is being taken into consideration.
7.	What is the size of the new units or pods? How many cells or beds will there be?	The new units have one hundred and twenty beds per unit. There are three units total.



8.	Is there air conditioning in the housing units or pods?	Yes, there will be air conditioning in the housing units.
9.	Will the new facility have wet cells or open dorms?	The new facility has wet cells.
10.	Will there be microwaves available in the new units or pods?	There will be microwaves available in the new units.
11.	Is there a list of inmate employment opportunities and rates of pay available?	A minimum of forty percent of the population will be guaranteed employment. There is no specific list of available employment opportunities at this time.
12.	Will we be allowed to have property sent back in?	No, property will not be allowed to be sent back in.
13.	Will video game systems be allowed at the new facility?	Yes, video game systems will be allowed at the new facility.
14.	Who is the approved commissary vendor, and what vendors can we order from?	The approved vendors at the new facility are Keefe and Access.
15.	When will our property be sent out? Can all property be sent to the new facility?	All inmate property will be shipped prior to or at the time of the move. Property will be sent to the new facility or returned to an address of the inmate's choosing at the expense of the Vermont Department of Corrections.
16.	What is the in person visitation schedule and will video visitation be allowed?	There will be kiosks available for video visitation. Visitation hours will be from 8AM to 4PM. The days of visitation will be posted in the units.
17.	Will there be medical copays at the new facility?	No, there will be no medical copays at the new facility.
18.	Will the housing plan be finalized prior to moving to the new facility?	The inmate housing plan will be determined by the new facility.
19.	Will inmates be transported via bus or plane?	This is a security related question and will not be answered.
20.	Will Vermont inmate ID numbers be used at the new facility?	The new facility will utilize Vermont inmate ID numbers.
21.	Will seven envelopes and stamps per week be available upon our arrival?	Yes, inmates will be provided seven envelopes and stamps per week.
22.	Will there be a private attorney line in the housing units?	Yes, an unmonitored attorney line will be available in the housing units.
23.	Will complete medical files follow inmates from Pennsylvania DOC?	Yes, medical files will be shipped from Pennsylvania to the new facility.



24.	What clothing will be provided by the contractor?	Inmates will be provided with a minimum of three sets of clean facility uniforms as well as three pairs of socks, three undershirts, three pairs of underwear, one pair of shorts, one set of sweat clothes (top and bottom), one pair of shoes, one set of long underwear (top and bottom), one winter jacket and one winter hat.
25.	Will the VT DOC pay the postage for property which cannot be brought to the new facility?	Inmates will have the option to mail home any property that cannot be brought to the new facility at the expense of the Vermont Department of Corrections.
26.	What classification tool will be used?	The new facility utilizes the ICAS classification tool.
27.	Does the facility use Securus or GTL for phone service?	The new facility utilizes ICsolutions for phone service.
28.	What does the contractor offer for activities, recreational opportunities, vocational training, and education that Vermont inmates will have access to?	Inmates will be provided with the following educational, vocational, and substance abuse treatment opportunities: Adult Basic Education (Foundational Literacy), Adult Basic Education (Literacy), Adult Basic Education (Pre-GED), Adult Basic Education (GED), Post-Secondary Education, Microsoft Office Keyboarding, Microsoft Office Word, Microsoft Office PowerPoint, Microsoft Office Excel, Substance Abuse, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Re-entry Program (Go Further Process). Religious and spiritual services shall be provided in accordance with ACA standards. Inmates will be provided with a minimum of six hours of out of cell recreation opportunities for inmates in General Population per day. Out of unit recreation will be afforded seven days a week for no less than one and a half hours per day.
29.	Will special diets, bottom bunk/tier, and other special medical allowances be granted upon arrival?	All medical information will be provided to the new facility prior to the transfer.
30.	Will inmate departure from Camp Hill be all at once or in stages?	This is a security related question and will not be answered.



31.	Does the facility use a vendor for email messages, e-books, music downloads, etcetera such as JPAY or GTL?	Kiosks are available at the new facility for music downloads. Inmates will have to purchase an MP3 players to gain access to this. E-mail will be available on the kiosks as well at a later date.												
32.	How many hours per day will we be locked down?	Inmates will be provided with a minimum of six hours of out of cell recreation opportunities for inmates in General Population per day. Out of unit recreation will be afforded seven days a week for no less than one and a half hours per day.												
33.	Will Vermont inmates be housed with inmates from other jurisdictions?	No, Vermont inmates will not be housed with inmates from other jurisdictions when residing in general population.												
34.	Is the facility tobacco free or will tobacco be allowed?	The new facility is tobacco free.												
35.	Can our property be shipped in our record center boxes?	Vermont Department of Corrections staff will be packing the property for this transfer.												
36.	Will Vermont DOC create a hotline for inmates to quickly report abuses by guards?	No, a hotline will not be created. Inmates are encouraged to report any concerns they may have to their Vermont caseworkers.												
37.	Current phone rates are \$0.06 per minute. Will this rate be preserved? If not, what will the new rate be?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Local</td> <td>\$ 0.039</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intralata/Intrastate</td> <td>\$ 0.069</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interlata/Intrastate</td> <td>\$ 0.069</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interstate</td> <td>\$ 0.069</td> </tr> <tr> <td>US Territories</td> <td>\$ 0.069</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International</td> <td>\$ 0.50</td> </tr> </table>	Local	\$ 0.039	Intralata/Intrastate	\$ 0.069	Interlata/Intrastate	\$ 0.069	Interstate	\$ 0.069	US Territories	\$ 0.069	International	\$ 0.50
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38.	When will our Pennsylvania accounts be closed?	Inmate accounts will be closed prior to departure in order to ensure that funds will be available upon or soon after inmates' arrival at the new facility. A specific date cannot be shared for security reasons.												



39.	Besides the carry on box, how many boxes of property will be allowed?	All allowable property will be transported to the new facility. Any property that is not allowed will be mailed to the address of the inmate's choosing at the expense of the Vermont DOC. Inmates will be allowed carry-on baggage which will be transported in a clear plastic bag and may contain: one undershirt, one pair of undershorts, one pair of socks, one pair of shoes with no laces, one pair prescription glasses (no stones), one wedding band (no stones), dentures, hearing aid(s), nitroglycerin pills, inhaler, legal documents, one religious book (Bible, Koran, Most Holy Book).
40.	Can unopened commissary items be sent to the new facility?	Yes, unopened commissary items can be sent to the new facility as long as said items are allowable property.
41.	How will we access the Vermont courts and the law library?	The new facility has a large law library space that is well resourced. VTDOC is working with TCCF to provide Vermont inmates with online legal research. During the implementation process inmates are encouraged to use TCCF law library resources. Vermont case law pertaining to conditions of confinement, habeas corpus, direct appeals, constitutional rights actions and other civil rights actions related to incarceration is available by writing to the Legal Education Director directly or through your case worker. There is a limit of 5 cases per request and one request per week.
42.	What Vermont legal resources will be available in the law library?	The new facility has a large law library space that is well resourced. VTDOC is working with TCCF to provide Vermont inmates with online legal research. During the implementation process inmates are encouraged to use TCCF law library resources. Vermont case law pertaining to conditions of confinement, habeas corpus, direct appeals, constitutional rights actions and other civil rights actions related to incarceration is available by writing to the Legal Education Director directly or through your case worker. There is a limit of 5 cases per request and one request per week.



43.	How can our friends and family members send money?	This information can be found on pages 18-19 of the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility Handbook. A physical copy of the TCCF facility handbook will be available for inmate review at SCI Camp Hill and an electronic copy will be posted online for friends and family.
44.	What is the facility's postal mailing address?	Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility 415 US HWY 49 North Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963
45.	What is the inmate mailing address?	The inmate mailing address should be formatted as follows: John Doe #00000 Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility 415 HWY 49 North Tutwiler, MS 38963
46.	Can additional items be added to carry-on luggage? Such as: hygiene supplies, shower shoes, one towel, one wash cloth, writing paper, pen, and envelopes, and 1 drinking cup. The carry on list seems to be lacking: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, shower shoes, towel, and address book - all items which have been allowed in past carry-on luggage.	No items will be added to the carry on list. There will be a 'welcome kit' made available upon arrival which will include basic hygiene supplies.
47.	Can the following property be sent to the new facility: medical foot pan, wash tub, art supplies?	If it is determined to be medically necessary, a foot pan and wash tub will be provided. Please refer to the facility handbook/property matrix for specific questions regarding art supplies.
48.	Can black 19" RCA flat screen TV's be grandfathered in?	Yes, 19" RCA flat screen TV's will be grandfathered in.
49.	Can an exception also be made for non-clear headphones, radios, earbuds, MP3 players, etc. as was done when we came to SCI Camp Hill?	Existing non-clear headphones, radios, earbuds, and MP3 players may be retained until no longer operational.
50.	How long will mail be forwarded from Camp Hill? How will that work now that personal mail is being sent to Smart Communications in FL?	Mail be forwarded as necessary from SCI Camp Hill and will not be impeded by the auxiliary mailing service. Specific questions regarding Pennsylvania Department of Corrections mail procedures will need to be answered by Pennsylvania staff.
51.	Why has the number of allowable t-shirts and socks been reduced from 10 to 5 and 7 respectively?	The number of allowable t-shirts and socks is determined by the new facility.



52.	What is being done about VT inmate property still located in Camp Hill's chapel, security office, unit manager's office, and J-Block closets?	Allowable property will be inventoried and transported to TCCF. All other property will be mailed to the address of the inmate's choosing at the expense of the Vermont Department of Corrections. No Vermont inmate property will be left at SCI Camp Hill.
53.	Will "state pay" for this last pay period be forwarded to VTDOC for distribution to our accounts after we leave Camp Hill?	Yes, state pay for the last pay period will be forwarded to Vermont along with monies for phone time and inmate account balances.
54.	Remote controls - can we take them to TCCF?	Yes, remote controls can be taken to the new facility. However, universal remotes will not be allowed and will be confiscated if discovered at TCCF.
55.	Can we negotiate to be allowed more than one pair of shoes?	No, this will not be negotiated. Inmates are allowed one pair of shower shoes, one pair of work boots, and one pair of tennis shoes.
56.	Will VTDOC ensure the transport company does not utilize "black boxes" for the lengthy transport?	Security protocols will not be discussed.
57.	Is there a property matrix for female inmates? Are the transgender inmates going to be issues female underwear upon arrival? Can trans. Inmates bring three pairs of underwear and bras in carry-on luggage in case they don't?	There is no property matrix for female inmates at this time. The Vermont Department of Corrections is working closely with staff at TCCF to determine the appropriate accommodations for transgender inmates.
58.	Can incontinence supplies be brought in carry on in a brown paper bag?	This will be determined on a case by case basis.
59.	Does the facility offer cable TV in the cells or can we only get TV over-the-air by digital antenna?	There is cable TV available in the cells.
60.	What are the laundry services like? Since no laundry bag is listed as allowable property and laundry detergent is allowed does that mean we'll be washing our own clothes?	Laundry services will be provided by the facility.
61.	There's no mention of headphone extensions or headphone splitters or mp3 players. How come?	Splitters are allowed and are mentioned on page 8 of the property matrix. Maximum cord length per the property matrix is 8 1/2 feet. Existing non-clear electronic devices may be retained until no longer operational.



62.	Can one radio and one pair of earbuds be added to the carry on list?	No items will be added to the carry on list.
63.	Our TV's all contain speakers; are these grandfathered in?	Yes, 19" RCA flatscreen TV's will be grandfathered in.
64.	Can non-clear headphones, radios, Walkman's, beard trimmers, earbuds, etc. that were purchased from approved vendors at NLCF be grandfathered in?	Existing non-clear headphones, beard trimming devices, earbuds, radios, and walkmans may be retained until no longer operational.
65.	Will the following items not listed on the property matrix be allowed: TV remotes, surge protectors, laundry bag, shower bag, rugs, gloves, sewing kits, art supplies, Timberland boots, wash tubs/foot pans, headphones/earbuds?	No rugs will be allowed; only cotton gloves will be allowed; wash tubs/foot pans will be allowed if determined to be medically necessary; specific questions regarding art supplies can be answered by the property matrix. TV remotes; surge protectors; laundry bags; shower bags; sewing kits; Timberland boots; and headphones/earbuds will all be allowed.
66.	Is there a gym?	Yes, there is a gym.
67.	Are we under Vermont policies and procedures?	The new facility is contractually obligated to adhere to the following Vermont policies and procedures: 320.01 - Offender Grievance System, 324.01 -Inmate Voting, 385.00-Inmate Access to Courts, 405.00 - Incident Reporting, 410.01 - Facility Rules and Inmate Discipline, 410.03 -Placement on Administrative Segregation, 410.05 - Protective Custody.
68.	What does the menu look like?	The menu has been made available online and will be posted in the unit at SCI Camp Hill.





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Agency of Human Services

Please be sure to be as specific as possible when submitting questions. Staff contacts which include questions on the transition must be submitted separately from staff contacts containing questions on general casework issues or they will not be answered.

Please refer friends and family to the Vermont Department of Correction's public website for access to these FAQ's.

<http://doc.vermont.gov/information-for-inmate-families-and-friends/inmates-housed-out-of-state/>

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as the transfer process continues.

