

# Coffee Talk

February 2025 ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

Superintendent: N. Brown

Editor: J. Roy



## What's New at The Creek?

### 2025 Town Hall Dates and Times

In 2025, Town Halls will be held quarterly in the Minimum and Medium. The dates are:

- April 29, 2025
- July 29, 2025
- October 28, 2025

We are securing locations right now and the plan is for the Medium Town Halls to be in the Chapel from 10:45am to 11:45am and the Minimum Town Halls in the Dining Room from 4:00pm to 5:15pm.

Requests will be made for topic ideas and the intent is for each Town Hall to have a featured speaker and subject, with an open forum for snazzy hat questions as time allows.

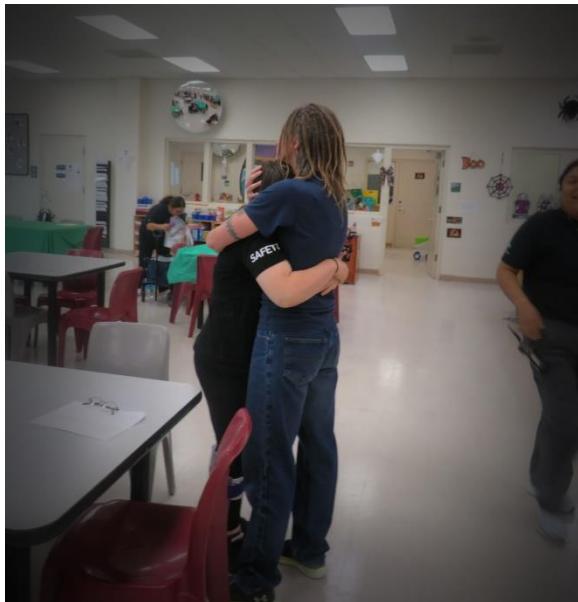
#### Town Hall Conduct Expectations:

If you choose to sign up to attend Town Hall, you are also agreeing to abide by the following:

- Be courteous and respectful to everyone in attendance.
- Avoid side conversations.
- Raise your hand if you wish to ask a question or share a thought, and wait to be called on. Every effort will be made to call on everybody and in order.
- Keep your questions and comments brief, pertaining to the topic at hand.
- Keep questions and comments general – the Town Hall setting is not the avenue to problem-solve your own personal concern.

Thank you for your help in keeping your Town Hall as effective and efficient as possible.

If you ever wondered why we do the Girl Scout Cookie drive every year...



**This is why.**

**If you'd like to be able to have more of these kinds of interactions with your daughters, granddaughters or nieces.**

**Kyte Lifeskills to request an application for Girl Scouts Beyond Bars.**

**They're waiting for you.**

**Thank you for making the 2025 Girl Scout Cookie Sales Event a success!**

**Extreme yumminess coming your way soon** 😊



**Why does my Craft order take so long to get to me?**

We do understand how you may be frustrated by the speed of the Craft Program ordering process.

We appreciate that most of you are conscientious about making sure your order is submitted before the deadline on the 15th. (NOTE: this deadline has now been moved forward to the 10<sup>th</sup>, effective 1/1/2024).

However, many AICs often wait until the last minute and send the order out ON the 10th, which means that we do not often receive them until a week or more later. This is the first factor that causes delays in the process. **Moving forward, any orders received after the 10<sup>th</sup> will be processed the following month.**

After Lifeskills has received all of the orders, they are then sent to the Operations Captain for approval.

Depending on how busy the Captain is, this can take up to a week for them to review and approve the orders.

After all orders have been approved, they are batched and all CD-28s are sent to the Business Office. The Business Office reviews and processes all CD-28s and submits them to Central Trust to have checks cut. This step can take anywhere from a week to 3 weeks, depending on how busy they are.

After the checks have been issued and sent to CCCF, Lifeskills couples them with each order, and mails them all out.

Then, however long it takes for the companies to process the checks, cash them, and assemble the orders. So, as you can see, given the process that we are obligated to follow, there are quite a few steps behind the scenes and many opportunities for delays.

Sometimes, the stars align and everything happens as quickly as possible. Other times, someone is sick and doesn't come to work for a few days, or the folks who cut the checks take vacation, or the Operations Captain has training, or the Business Office has an audit, or the Mail Room is understaffed, or...you get the picture.

Please know that we endeavor to process your orders as quickly as possible.

We often get the question: "They cashed my check 3 weeks ago. How soon will I get my order?"

That is on the company, not Lifeskills. We deliver the orders usually within 48 hours of receiving them.

## February Trivia Challenge!!

1. How many days are in February?
2. What is it called when February has 29 days?
3. How often do leap years occur?
4. What is the February birthstone?
5. What are the two zodiac signs of February?
6. What are the birth flowers of February?
7. In the Southern Hemisphere, what season is February in?
8. According to folklore, fogs in February mean frosts in what month?

9. If bees come out in February, what two weather phenomena will supposedly happen the next day?
10. True or False: February is the second month of the year, according to the Roman calendar.
11. What is the name of the first spacecraft to land on Mars, which touched down in February?
12. Which famous sporting association was founded in February of 1948?
13. What solar body did Astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh discover on the eighteenth of February, 1930?
14. Which band was featured on the Ed Sullivan show on the ninth of February, 1964?
15. Which US state entered into the union on the 14th of February 1912?

**Send your answers via KYTE to “Roy in Lifeskills”.**

**The person with the most correct answers will win 10 free Photo Tickets!**

**In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected by a random drawing between all top finishers.**

**Just fill out the KYTE with your answers corresponding to the numbered questions. No need to re-write the questions.**

**Deadline to return answers is the second Friday in February.**

**Congratulations to Richelle Seamster ! The winner of last month's Trivia Contest!!**

**You are a Smarty Pants, in the best way possible**  **Your photo tickets are in the mail.**



# Financial Services

## Informational Briefing

### AIC Debt and Obligation Information

Debt / Obligation Type	Collection Schedule	Additional Information
Court Ordered Financial Obligation (COFO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected from eligible deposits per ORS 423.105</li> <li>10% collected for COFO(s) from eligible deposits until the transitional savings trust account reaches \$500</li> <li>Then, 15% collected for COFO(s) from eligible deposits until obligation(s) are satisfied</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The department does not have case-specific information regarding COFOs; AICs are encouraged to contact the court of record regarding their COFO details</li> <li>COFOs are not the same as County and US Court filing fees. Examples of COFOs are restitution, fines, fees, &amp; child support</li> <li>COFOs will continue to collect during the Holiday Buying Period</li> </ul>
<p><b>Note:</b> Although the transitional savings trust account is considered an obligation, funds collected are owned by the AIC. Per ORS 423.105, 5% will be collected from eligible deposits and placed into the transitional savings trust account. Funds in the transitional savings trust account are <u>not</u> available until the AIC releases from ODOC custody.</p>		
DOC Debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected from eligible deposits</li> <li>Additionally, collections shall occur the last business day of the month per OAR 291 Div. 158 if funds are available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOC debt includes but is not limited to debt incurred from various disciplinary fines, copy, and postage advances</li> <li>DOC debt is due upon receipt; if/when funds are not available; funds are advanced and set-up as debt</li> <li>Monthly, AICs may spend up to \$40 of the first \$80 deposited into general spending</li> <li>DOC Debt may be suspended during the Holiday Buying Period unless a new disciplinary fee is applied</li> </ul>
County Court Deferred Filing Fee Obligation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected as funds become available</li> <li>Multiple collections may occur throughout the month</li> <li>Additionally, collections shall occur the last business day of the month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County obligations refer to deferred county filing fees</li> <li>These obligations are incurred when an AIC <i>elects</i> to file with the court and the court approves a deferred filing fee</li> <li>County Court fees will continue to collect during the Holiday Buying Period</li> </ul>
Initial Federal / US Court Filing Fee Obligation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected as funds become available</li> <li>Multiple collections may occur throughout the month</li> <li>Additionally, collections shall occur the last business day of the month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Filing fees can be collected in total and are due upon receipt</li> <li>These obligations are incurred when an AIC <i>elects</i> to file with the court and the court approves a deferred filing fee</li> <li>Initial Federal/US Court filing fees will continue to collect during the Holiday Buying Period</li> </ul>
Federal / US Court Deferred Filing Fee Obligation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected around the beginning of the month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General filing fee collection amount determined by the previous month's deposit(s)</li> <li>20% of previous months deposits multiplied by the number of cases is deemed collectable</li> <li>Federal/US Court Deferred filing fees will continue to collect during the Holiday Buying Period</li> </ul>

**Note:** Debt / Obligation types appear in order of collection priority. ODOC will comply with garnishment orders upon receipt.

02/03/2023



# Changes to the Mail Rule

## Effective 1/13/2025

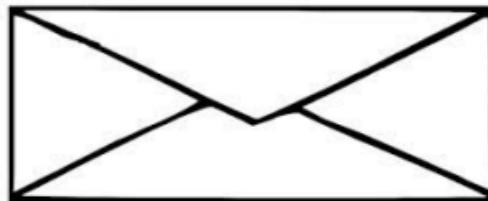
Effective January 13, 2025, the Mail Rule has been revised to address concerns regarding safety, security, and the well-being of both Adults in Custody (AICs) and staff. Mail postmarked after this date will be subject to the revised rule.

**Some of the new requirements that friends and family of AICs should be aware of include:**

- ♦ Incoming mail must be in pen, lead pencil, or be typewritten or photocopied.
- ♦ Incoming mail must be written on standard weight (20 pound or less) white paper. This is standard copy/print paper.
- ♦ Incoming mail must be enclosed in a commercially produced envelope using standard weight (20 pound or less) white paper that is no larger than 9" x 12".

**There are no changes to the  
Legal Mail requirements**

This information is also being provided to your friends and family in the Visiting lobby, via the F&F emailed newsletter, and on the DOC Facebook page.



**Examples of items that will be refused:**

- ♦ Any non-white envelope
- ♦ Envelopes larger than 9" x 12"
- ♦ Envelopes that are not commercially produced
- ♦ Envelopes made of cardboard, padded, corrugated, or tear-resistant material
- ♦ Envelopes constructed of heavy weight paper (that is, greater than 20 pound) or with security screening features
- ♦ Cardstock (such as is used for greeting cards and postcards)

**Greeting cards and postcards  
are not allowed.**

# How to Contact the U.S. Department of Education

## Office of Correctional Education



The U.S. Department of Education (Department) serves students and student loan borrowers who are currently or formerly incarcerated within all types of correctional facilities. You may contact the Department by postal mail using the following instructions.

### For Information on Educational Programs in Correctional Facilities

The Office of Correctional Education (OCE) responds to most questions and correspondence about educational programs in correctional settings.

*For a reply, you must provide your **full name** and **return mailing address** in the body of your letter. Please also indicate if any special instructions are needed for you to receive mail.*

**OCE responds to requests about the following topics:**

- Adult education programs, high school diplomas, and GEDs
- Postsecondary education institutions and community colleges
- Correspondence courses
- Post-release educational opportunities
- General inquiries about education programs
- Second Chance Pell programs
- Prison Education Programs

**Please write to:**

**U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Correctional Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202**

### To Submit a Complaint About Federal Financial Aid, Student Loans, or Postsecondary Institutions

The Ombudsman Office oversees all complaints about federal financial aid programs that are submitted directly to the Department's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), other offices in the Department, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and other stakeholders.

*For a reply, you must provide your **full name, date of birth, Social Security number, and return mailing address** in the body of your letter. Please also indicate if any special instructions are needed for you to receive mail.*

The Ombudsman Office responds to requests about the following topics:

#### Federal Financial Aid

- Eligibility and applying for financial aid
- Completing a FAFSA® form
- Getting information about loans or grants
- Accessing accounts
- Repaying student loans
- Identifying or dealing with student loan servicers
- Discharging, canceling, or forgiving loans
- Getting out of default
- Military or veteran education benefits
- Identity theft, fraud, or scams

#### Postsecondary Institutions

- Quality of education
- Closed schools or programs
- Program requirements
- Tuition or fee charges
- Withdrawing from school

**Please write to:**

**U.S. Department of Education  
FSA Ombudsman Office  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202**



# EHR UPDATE



**TO: ALL ADULTS IN CUSTODY**  
**FROM: HEALTH SERVICES**  
**RE: Electronic Health Records (EHR)**  
**Project**

It might be cold outside, but things are heating up for the EHR project!

Over the past few months, many people from Health Services have been testing a practice version of the EHR system to see how it will work. Also, more testing is scheduled soon!

This is important because the people testing it are the doctors, nurses, dentists, BHS, and other health workers who will use the EHR to take care of your health. Testing helps to make sure the EHR works right before we start using it every day.

Health Services will continue to keep you updated about the EHR Project! If you have questions about the EHR, send a kytic addressed to: **ASK EHR**.



**PLEASE REMEMBER**, for now, **you still access health care, dental, and BHS how you always have in your institution.**





**PARA:** Todos los adultos bajo custodia  
**DE:** Servicios de Salud  
**Asunto:** Actualización sobre los Expedientes Electrónicos de Salud

Puede que haga frío afuera, ¡pero las cosas se están calentando para el proyecto EHR !

Durante los últimos meses, muchas personas de los Servicios de Salud han estado probando una versión práctica del sistema EHR para ver cómo funciona. Además, ¡más pruebas están programadas pronto!

Esto es importante porque las personas que lo prueban son los médicos, enfermeras, dentistas, BHS y otros trabajadores de la salud que utilizarán el EHR para cuidar de su salud. Las pruebas ayudan a garantizar que el EHR funcione correctamente antes de comenzar a usarlo todos los días.

¡ Health Services continuará para mantenerlo informado sobre el Proyecto EHR ! Si tienes preguntas sobre el EHR, envíe un correo dirigido a: ASK EHR.



**POR FAVOR RECUERDE**, por ahora, usted todavía tiene acceso a atención médica, dental y BHS como siempre lo ha hecho en su institución.





**COFFEE CREEK CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**  
**MS. APRIL**  
**FAMILY ADVOCATE**

**MEDIUM ONLY**

KYTE FOR SERVICES – NO DROP INS  
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE LAW LIBRARY  
PREFERENCE TO OPEN DHS CASES

The purpose of the Family Advocate is to provide advocacy to adults in custody looking to build positive and meaningful involvement in their children's lives.

The Family Advocate works as a liaison for AIC's involved with DHS or other juvenile systems and offers support through difficulties involving custody, parenting time, and/or caregiver relations regarding their minor children.

MS. APRIL, FAMILY ADVOCATE, CCCF

---

# PHOTOGRAPHY FAQS

## THE LIFE OF A PHOTOGRAPH

---

"I took a photo at my Unit's photography session on Monday. Why haven't I gotten it yet?"

Let's take a look at the life of a photograph, from taking it, to receiving the finished product in your hands.

1. Unit Photography day arrives and your friendly photographer takes your picture. Your photo and paperwork are then placed in a clear envelope to be placed into the J/K bubble until next picture day or pick-up day later that week.
2. Unit photos are picked up from the J/K bubble in the morning at the first of each week and brought back into the Lifeskills Office. At this point your photo was taken up to 7 days ago.
3. The Photography Coordinator reviews the SD cards holding the photos, which takes 1 – 2 days.
4. SD cards are then given to the Photography Clerk, who separates paper orders and readies CD28s to go to Business Office. CD28s are entered into a database and packaged to take to Central Trust. This takes 1 – 2 days.
5. CD28s are processed at Central Trust and returned to the Lifeskills office. This can take from 4 to 14 days.
6. CD28s are placed back on the Photographer Clerk's desk, and can be checked off against her hard copy. Non-sufficient Funds returns are separated and their orders are pulled to the side to be processed separately.
7. Pre-printed photos can now be matched with successful CD28s, taped up, sorted by units, and filed in our mailbox to go to you. This can take 1-2 days.
8. Mail is taken to each unit's officer, to be passed out as security and convenience makes possible. This can take a varying amount of time, depending upon the unit and the officer.
9. This puts the photos you have taken on your desk, anywhere from 10 to 28 business days from the day that you posed for them!

## **Notice Regarding Use of Religious Oils**

Religious Oils are intended for personal religious use only.

Use of oils should not infringe on the senses of your neighbors.

Oils must be stored in the original bottles they come in.

Oils are NOT allowed to be mixed in lotion or spray bottles.

If any of these guidelines are broken, your oils can be confiscated.

If any of these guidelines are broken, your access to oils can be restricted.

### **Policy 90.2.4**

1. Use of Spiritual Items: Items authorized are only to be used in a manner consistent with the purpose of the item. Misuse of items may result in confiscation in accordance with the DOC rule on **Personal Property (Inmate)**, **OAR 291-117**. Items may not be displayed or used as decorations in the cell or bunk area. When not in use, the items must be stored with the inmate's other personal property.



#### **Position Overview:**

As a Scanning Analyst, you will be responsible for digitizing documents and ensuring accurate data entry. This role requires a keen eye for detail and the ability to work efficiently in a fast-paced environment.

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Operate scanning equipment to digitize paper documents.
- Ensure quality control by reviewing scanned documents for accuracy and completeness.
- Organize and prepare documents for scanning.
- Maintain scanning equipment and troubleshoot any issues.
- Input and manage data within our electronic filing system.
- Collaborate with team members to meet project deadlines.

#### **Qualifications:**

- High school diploma or GED; additional education or training in information management is a plus.
- Knowledge of computer software.
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy.
- Ability to manage time effectively and meet deadlines.
- Ability to follow directions from lead worker and supervisor.

#### **Benefits:**

- Training in use of scanning equipment.

#### **How to Apply:**

Interested candidates should send a job application in a kytic to OCE Scanning by 1-31-2025.

“Scanning Analyst” should be the job title.



### **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Information**

The Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) has a zero tolerance policy for sexual abuse, sexual harassment and for retaliation for reporting an incident. You may report in person to any staff, through an AIC communication, through the grievance system, by calling the PREA hotline by making a language selection, then dialing 91 from any AIC phone.

#### **Filing an Anonymous PREA Report**

If you are uneasy about filing a PREA allegation, you may file an anonymous report with an outside agency.

You may write to:

Governor's Constituent Services Office  
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Please indicate in the beginning of your letter you are filing a PREA allegation and you are requesting to remain anonymous.

The Governor's Office will refer all anonymous allegations to the DOC PREA Coordinator to assure an investigation is completed based off the information that is provided.

#### **Opposite Gender Viewing/Announcements**

Opposite gender staff announcement themselves when entering a housing unit by ringing a bell. This must be done any time the status quo of the gender supervision on a housing unit changes (if there is already an opposite gender staff on the unit then there is not needed to re-announce). When you hear the doorbell, opposite gender staff will be entering the housing unit so please make sure you are covered up appropriately.

It is also important you undress in the appropriate locations. If you are located in a bunk area, there are cameras throughout the facility so the designated changing/bathroom areas are the only areas you should be without undergarments. Opposite gender viewing may happen incidentally when staff are conducting routine cell checks. You can minimize this by keeping aware of the gender of supervision in your housing unit and ensuring you cover up when possible.

#### **Community-Based PREA Advocacy (Support) Program**

ODOC has partnered with community based, confidential advocates of sexual abuse victims to provide services to AICs. AICs at ODOC who have experienced sexual abuse may reach a community-based advocate by making a language selection, entering your AIC PIN, then press 0\*711 AIC telephone systems, or may request a private call through the PREA Compliance Manager at the facility. Advocates provide victims of sexual abuse information about their options, resources, information and emotional support. There is no charge for calls to advocates.

The community-based advocacy crisis line is for individuals needing assistance coping with sexual abuse related issues and should not be used for other purposes.

Telephone calls and mail with community-based advocacy centers is considered privileged communication and will be handled similar to legal calls/official mail. All advocacy calls are not monitored or recorded.

Advocates provide confidential support and crisis intervention, inform you about the investigation and medical examination process, educate you about healing from sexual abuse and offer resources and referrals

Advocates will not tell you what to do, communicate with the institution unless you request them to do so and sign a release and will not provide legal advice.

Community-based advocacy centers provide sexual abuse support to people of all genders. Community-based advocates will not report unless you request them to do so and if you sign a release of information.

Just Detention International Headquarters is a national advocacy resource and can be reached at:

3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340

Los Angeles, CA 90010

If you have any other questions regarding PREA, you may ask any staff member, write the PREA Compliance Manager at your institution, or you may write:

E. Sage, PREA Coordinator

Oregon Department of Corrections

3601 State Street

Salem, Oregon 97301

February 22, 2022



Artículo Boletín AIC – 2022

### **Ley de Eliminación de Violaciones en Prisión (Información PREA)**

El Departamento Correccional de Oregon (ODOC) tiene cero tolerancias para el abuso sexual, el acoso sexual, y las represalias por denunciar un incidente. Puede informar en persona a cualquier miembro personal a través de una comunicación de AIC (adulto bajo custodia) o a través del sistema de quejas. Puede llamar a la línea directa de PREA, seleccionar el idioma y luego marcar 91 de cualquier teléfono de AIC.

### **Presentación de un informe PREA anónimo**

Si no está seguro de presentar una acusación ante PREA, puede presentar un informe anónimo con una agencia externa.

#### **Puede escribir a:**

Governor's Constituent Services Office

900 Court Street NE, Suite 254

Salem, Oregon 97301

Por favor indique al comienzo de su carta, que está presentando una denuncia ante PREA y quiere permanecer anónimo. La Oficina del Gobernador remitirá todas las denuncias anónimas al Coordinador de PREA para garantizar que se complete una investigación basada en la información proporcionada.

### **Visualización/Anuncios de género opuesto**

El personal del género opuesto se anunciará cuando ingresa a una unidad de vivienda, tocando un timbre. Esto debe hacerse cada vez que cambie el statu quo de la supervisión de género en una unidad de vivienda (si ya hay un miembro del personal del sexo opuesto en la unidad, entonces no es necesario volver a anunciar). Cuando escuche el timbre, el personal del sexo opuesto estará ingresando a la unidad de vivienda, así que asegúrese de estar cubierto adecuadamente.

También es importante que se desnude en los lugares apropiados. Si se encuentra en un área de literas, hay cámaras en toda la instalación. Existen áreas designadas para cambiarse, el baño es la única área en la que puede estar sin ropa interior. La visualización de sexo opuesto puede ocurrir incidentalmente cuando el personal realiza controles de celda de rutina. Puede minimizar esto siendo consciente del género de la supervisión en su unidad de vivienda y asegurándose de cubrirse cuando sea posible.

### **Programa de defensa (apoyo) basado en la comunidad PREA**

ODOC se ha asociado con defensores confidenciales basados en la comunidad de víctimas de abuso sexual para brindar servicios a los AIC.

Los AIC en ODOC que han pasado por abuso sexual pueden comunicarse con un defensor comunitario seleccionando un idioma, ingresando su PIN de AIC, luego presionando 0\*711 sistemas telefónicos. También pueden solicitar una llamada privada a través del Gerente de Cumplimiento de PREA en la instalación. Los defensores brindan a las víctimas de abuso sexual información sobre sus opciones, recursos, y apoyo emocional. No hay ningún cargo por las llamadas a los defensores.

La línea de crisis de defensa basada en la comunidad es para personas que necesitan ayuda acerca de los problemas relacionados con el abuso sexual y no debe usarse para otros fines.

Las llamadas telefónicas y el correo con los centros de defensa basados en la comunidad se consideran comunicaciones privilegiadas y se manejarán de manera similar a las llamadas legales/correo oficial. Todas las llamadas de defensa no son monitoreadas ni grabadas.

Los defensores brindan apoyo confidencial e intervención en crisis, le informaran sobre la investigación y el proceso del examen médico, lo educaran sobre cómo curarse del abuso sexual y ofrecen recursos y referencias.

Los defensores no le dirán qué hacer, no se comunicarán con la institución a menos de que usted les solicite que lo hagan y firmen un comunicado. No le brindarán asesoramiento legal.

Los centros de defensa basados en la comunidad brindaran apoyo en caso de abuso sexual a personas de todos los géneros.

Los defensores comunitarios no informarán a nadie a menos de que usted les solicite que lo hagan y si usted firma una divulgación de información.

La sede internacional de Just Detención (Just Detention International Headquarters) es un recurso de defensa nacional y se puede contactar en:

3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340

Los Angeles, CA 90010

Si tiene cualquier pregunta sobre PREA, puede preguntarle a un miembro del personal, escribir al Gerente de Cumplimiento de PREA en su institución, o puede escribir a:

E. Sage, PREA Coordinator

Oregon Department of Corrections

3601 State Street

Salem, Oregon 97301

Febrero 22, 2022



*From the Administrative Rules Program:*

Below is the list of status changes made to DOC administrative rules since 11/25/2024.

**PERMANENT RULES:**

## 291-131 Mail (AIC)

- Amends rule to limit the type of envelopes, paper, and the use of certain materials related to incoming mail; to align the rules with statutory requirements for the processing of AIC mail with the Corrections Ombudsman; remove gendered language and add clarifying language and language for consistency with other department rules; change the term "inmate" to "adult in custody" per statutory requirement; and make minor grammatical and punctuation edits.
- Effective 1/13/25



**Valentine's Day**, also called **St. Valentine's Day**, holiday (February 14) when people express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing of couples by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-

February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

The day is popular in the United States as well as in Britain, Canada, and Australia, and it is also celebrated in other countries, including Argentina, France, Mexico, and South Korea. In the Philippines it is the most common wedding anniversary, and mass weddings of hundreds of couples are not uncommon on that date. The holiday has expanded to expressions of affection among relatives and friends. Many schoolchildren exchange valentines with one another on this day.

*Source-Encyclopedia Britannica*

**JUST SO YOU KNOW...  
NOW THAT THE COFFEE  
TALK HAS GONE 100%  
DIGITAL ON THE  
TABLETS, IF FOR SOME  
REASON YOU WOULD  
LIKE/NEED A PAPER COPY.  
SIMPLY KYTE  
LIFESKILLS AND REQUEST  
ONE.**

**BLACK AND WHITE ONLY  
PLEASE.**