



Koalition gegen die Todesstrafe e.V.

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Good to know Virginia

Here you will find some facts about the Virginia safety system. Please feel free to ask for more information if you have further questions: ciarannette@aol.com

Mail

General rules letter/greeting cards:

Letters must be regular size or smaller (24cm x 11cm). And they can not weigh over 1 oz. Letters must be sent by regular mail, not express or priority shipping.

Are Stickers on the envelope permitted?

Yes

Multicolored paper/home-made cards (with glue) is permitted?

Yes

How many photos are allowed to send?

There is no limit on the number of photos you can send, but the letter can not weigh over 1 oz.

Can I send the offender Polaroids?

No – only regular photos

May I send something except letters, photos or books to the prisoners?

No. You may not send books, stamps, paper, envelopes, or writing materials.

Can I send Money/Money Orders directly to the prisoner?

You may send money orders. These orders must have your full name and address and the prisoners name and number. They must be made out in US dollars. Ask your bank for directions on money orders.

Can the inmate do overseas calls?

Yes, but your phone company will have to authorize it. Prisoners must call collect, and phone rates from the prisons are VERY expensive. You should talk with your pen-pal and probably the prison official for more information on prices.

Visitation

Are there to Contact or Non Contact visits?

For friends of prisoners in Virginia (non-family) only non-contact visits are allowed

How do I come on the visitors list?

Request that your pen-pal put you on the list. She or he will then send you a form.

How long can I visit the inmate?

Visiting on VA's DR takes place on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM. Visits usually last between ½ hour – 2 hours.

What do I have to do, in order to request Special Visits?

There are not special visits in Virginia

How does it run off in the prison, if I arrive there, in order to visit the prisoner?

You will enter the prison. The guards will contact the row and have your friend moved to the visiting booths. You will receive a pat down, and then be sent back to the visiting area.

Which dress regulations are there for visitors?

Bras and Underwear are required. No Tank Tops, very short skirts or strappy dresses.