

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
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Burlington, MA 01803

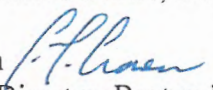


**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

February 3, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: Tae D. Johnson  
Assistant Director, Custody Management Division

THROUGH: Jay M. Brooks  
Deputy Assistant Director, Detention Management Division

FROM: Chris Cronen   
Field Office Director, Boston Field Office

SUBJECT: Plymouth County Correctional Facility, MA – Waiver Request

Purpose

Provide a waiver for the Boston Field Office as it relates to the Correspondence and Other Mail Standard, section (III)(E)(1) within the 2000 National Detention Standards (NDS), which states "In SPC/CDFs, staff shall open and inspect incoming general correspondence and other mail (including packages and publications) for contraband in the presence of the detainee."

Background: A June 2016, annual detention standards compliance review of the Plymouth County Correctional Facility (PCCF) by the Nakamoto Group reported that PCCF's staff routinely opens all incoming general mail without the presence of the detainee.

Discussion: Plymouth County Correctional Facility's Mail Policy states that all incoming mail is searched for contraband, weapons, gang related items, terrorism materials and drugs / drug paraphernalia, chemical exposure or WMD. The mail room is located within the building but not within the secure perimeter. The ventilation and access to such area is maintained separately, thus providing a protection to the inhabitants of the secure facility. Items deemed to be correspondence from attorneys and government officials, agencies and consular representatives are maintained secure and are opened (but not read) in the presence of an inmate / detainee and searched for contraband. During this process the inmate / detainee will receive in hand any mail that is deemed clear for retention. The PCCF does have procedures in place and approved by the Superintendent of the facility and the Sheriff that identify and justify the need to open detainee correspondence. The reasons listed above are legitimate security reasons and good correctional practice for the safety of all who visit, work or reside at the PCCF.

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Recommendation

I recommend authorization of a waiver for Plymouth County Correctional Facility for NDS Correspondence and Other Mail Section (III)(E)(1): Inspection of Incoming Correspondence as the facility has met the intent of the standard as PCCF is an IGSA and not an SPC/CDF.

Approve / date amb 2/9/17 Disapprove / date \_\_\_\_\_  
Modify / date \_\_\_\_\_ Needs more discussion \_\_\_\_\_