

September 8, 2021

Notice of Change/Withdrawal

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

33-210.101 Routine Mail

NOTICE OF CORRECTION

Notice is hereby given that the following correction has been made to the proposed rule in Vol. 47 No. 96, May 18, 2021 issue of the Florida Administrative Register pursuant to comments received from the general public during a public meeting on June 11, 2021 and from JAPC on July 6, 2021 and July 28, 2021.

The proposed rule is hereby corrected to substitute the following language:

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To increase the safety and security of inmates and staff, the Department is developing a system through a third-party vendor to allow for the receipt, processing, and delivery of routine mail in correctional institutions. Rulemaking is necessary to establish the protocols for processing routine mail electronically and to update the regular routine mail process. FDC's decision to digitize inmate routine mail and prohibit stamps being sent in is to prevent the introduction of illegal drugs and substances through the routine mail process. FDC has experienced multiple incidents of staff illnesses resulting from contact with Fentanyl and Suboxone, as well as inmate deaths and illnesses requiring emergency medical treatment from the consumption of dangerous drugs. Like Florida, other states and jurisdictions have experienced similar problems related to drugs and weapons being sent through routine mail and have switched to a digitized mail platform or are simply making photocopies of the mail to give the inmate.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule establishes the protocols for processing routine mail electronically and updates the regular routine mail process. FDC's decision to digitize inmate routine mail and prohibit stamps being sent in is to prevent the introduction of illegal drugs and substances through the routine mail process. FDC has experienced multiple incidents of staff illnesses resulting from contact with Fentanyl and Suboxone, as well as inmate deaths and illnesses requiring emergency medical treatment from the consumption of dangerous drugs. Like Florida, other states and jurisdictions have experienced similar problems related to drugs and weapons being sent through routine mail and have switched to a digitized mail platform or are simply making photocopies of the mail to give the inmate. From January 2019 to April 2021, FDC staff discovered over 35,000 contraband items, such as fentanyl/oxycodone, cocaine, heroin, K2 (synthetic cannabinoid), methadone (bath salts), methamphetamine, marijuana, narcotic pills, suboxone, cell phones, ammunition, weapons, hidden in the mail.