

Memorandum

TO: Arkansas Division of Correction Inmate Population

FROM: Dexter Payne, Director

RE: Changes to the Purchase and Receipt Reading Materials

DATE: December 30, 2025

Due to an increase in dangerous contraband coming into the Arkansas Division of Correction (ADC) prison facilities through the mail, the ADC is implementing a new publication policy to prioritize the security and well-being of everyone in our correctional facilities.

Effective February 1, 2026 you nor your family and friends will be allowed to purchase publications from an outside vendor for you to receive an external hardcopy publication directly into an Arkansas Division of Correction (ADC) facility. A publication includes any printed material that is published and made available for commercial purposes (books, newspapers and magazines). This comprehensive prohibition on incarcerated individuals receiving external hardcopy publications directly into an ADC facility is necessary to mitigate significant security risks posed by increasingly sophisticated methods of contraband introduction.

The ADC is facing a continuous and growing challenge regarding the introduction of dangerous contraband concealed within incoming paper materials.

- **Contraband Threat:** There are **continued and escalating attempts** to introduce unknown, harmful, and potentially fatal substances by soaking or saturating paper items, including books, newspapers, magazines, and legal or religious documents
- **Safety Imperative:** These contaminated materials pose a direct and severe risk to the safety and health of the offender population and correctional staff who handle or come into contact with the substances

The ADC has already implemented robust technological and physical alternatives that ensure you retain ample access to reading material and information. The ADC provides access to reading material in your physical facility library, digitized publications on your facility-issued tablet, and religious reading material in your facility chapel. You also have access to events through your facility televisions, ensuring exposure to news and information.