

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1999 No. 728

The Prison Rules 1999

PART II

PRISONERS

MEDICAL ATTENTION

[^{F1}Health services

20.—(1) The governor must work in partnership with local health care providers to secure the provision to prisoners of access to the same quality and range of services as the general public receives from the National Health Service.

(2) Every request by a prisoner to see a health care professional shall be recorded by the officer to whom it was made and promptly communicated to a health care professional.

(3) If an unconvicted prisoner desires the attendance of a named registered medical practitioner or dentist other than one already working in the prison, and will pay any expense incurred, the governor must, if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the request and unless the Secretary of State otherwise directs, allow the prisoner to be visited and treated by that practitioner or dentist, in consultation with a registered medical practitioner who works in the prison.

(4) Subject to any directions given in the particular case by the Secretary of State, a registered medical practitioner selected by or on behalf of a prisoner who is a party to any legal proceedings must be afforded reasonable facilities for examining the prisoner in connection with the proceedings, and may do so out of hearing but in the sight of an officer

(5) A prisoner may correspond, in accordance with arrangements made by the Secretary of State for the confidential handling of correspondence, with a registered medical practitioner who has treated the prisoner for a life threatening condition, and such correspondence may not be opened, read or stopped unless the governor has reasonable cause to believe its contents do not relate to the treatment of that condition.]

F1 Rule 20 substituted (1.1.2010) by [The Prison and Young Offender Institution \(Amendment\) Rules 2009 \(S.I. 2009/3082\)](#), rule 1, **Sch. 1 para. 2**

Special illnesses and conditions

21.—(1) [^{F2}A registered medical practitioner][^{F3}working within the prison] shall report to the governor on the case of any prisoner whose health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued imprisonment or any conditions of imprisonment. The governor shall send the report to the Secretary of State without delay, together with his own recommendations.

^{F4}(2)

- F2** Words in rule 21(1) substituted (3.1.2006) by [The Prison \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Rules 2005 \(S.I. 2005/3437\)](#), rule 1, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(a\)](#)
- F3** Words in rule 21(1) substituted (1.1.2010) by [The Prison and Young Offender Institution \(Amendment\) Rules 2009 \(S.I. 2009/3082\)](#), rule 1, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(a\)](#)
- F4** Rule 21(2) omitted (3.1.2006) by virtue of [The Prison \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Rules 2005 \(S.I. 2005/3437\)](#), rule 1, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(b\)](#)

Notification of illness or death

22.—(1) If a prisoner dies, becomes seriously ill, sustains any severe injury or is removed to hospital on account of mental disorder, the governor shall, if he knows his or her address, at once inform the prisoner’s spouse or next of kin, and also any person who the prisoner may reasonably have asked should be informed.

(2) If a prisoner dies, the governor shall give notice immediately to the coroner having jurisdiction, to the ^{F5}[independent monitoring board] and to the Secretary of State.

- F5** Words in rule 22(2) substituted (1.4.2008) by [The Prison \(Amendment\) Rules 2008 \(S.I. 2008/597\)](#), rules 1, [4\(a\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Prison Rules 1999, Cross Heading: MEDICAL ATTENTION.