

Date: May 29, 2015
To: Arts-in-Corrections (AIC) Contractors
From: Mary Beth Barber, Special Projects
Re: Recommendations for dress code

Dear Arts-in-Corrections contractors,
The communications department for CDCR recently sent me their dress code recommendations for members of the media, and I thought I'd forward it to you through a memo as well. The information on the following page is pretty standard knowledge for contractors, but good to pass along to others coming into CDCR facilities as guests when you're working.
If you have any questions about this information, please let me know. And keep up the good work!



Mary Beth Barber, Special Projects, California Arts Council



The following information is provided to members of the media coming into California state prisons regarding dress code suggestions and requirements for guests. This information may be useful for individuals associated with the Arts-in-Corrections program as well.

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CDCR has a few rules and a dress code as follows:

- Valid picture identification must be carried and presented upon request.
- No persons under the age of 18 years.
- No cell phones, or pagers.
- No weapons of any kind.
- No tobacco products or any kind.
- No cigarette lighters or matches.
- **Unless medically necessary**, no handbags, purses, backpacks, etc. (wallets are okay)

During rainy weather or where rain is imminent, a guest may bring an **umbrella**:

Umbrellas should be compact or collapsible models, not exceeding 18 inches in length when collapsed. Umbrellas with pointed ends are not allowed. Umbrellas may only be carried during inclement weather and will be secured in such a manner to preclude loss or theft.

The following types of clothing are prohibited for tour visitors:

1. No clothing that resembles state issued inmate clothing:

- A. No blue denim pants, blue shirts or blue jackets or shorts (of any color).
- B. No grey denim pants, or grey shirts
- C. No blue chambray shirts, jackets or pants.
- D. No sweatshirts.
- E. No sweatpants.
- F. No sweat suits, including conventional, or designer jogging suits
- G. No weightlifter pants
- H. No orange pants, shirts, jumpsuits or shorts
- I. No lime green pants, shirts, jumpsuits or shorts
- J. No yellow rain coats and/or rain pants.

2. No fabric made in such a manner to resemble blue denim material and/or state issued clothing:

- A. Black denim slacks and jackets are approved, unless the materials are so faded that it cannot be distinguished from blue denim.
- C. Acid washed or stone washed materials must be distinguishable from inmate clothing.

3. No revealing clothing:

- A. No transparent clothing.
- B. No tank tops/sling-shot tops.
- C. No strapless, halter, spaghetti straps and/or bare midriff clothing.
- D. Tights are acceptable alternative to hosiery for wear under dresses or skirts.
- E. Skirts will be no more than 2 inches above the knee. Slits in the garment shall not expose more than mid-thigh.
- F. Dress or sport shirts/blouses unbuttoned past the second button from the top of the shirt/blouse are not authorized.
- G. No open-toe shoes.

4. No attire displaying obscene and/or offensive language and/or logos/drawings.

5. No camouflage or military style clothing.

6. **No open-toe shoes** (sandals, etc.)

7. **Any electronic equipment** (cameras, recorders, etc.) needed to facilitate\capture the story\interview or event, **shall be inventoried** and the list sent to the Public Information Officer for the institution prior to the visit.

Quick Note

In addition to the above dress code/general tour rules, there is a standard disclosure told to all visitors to CDCR facilities regarding hostage situations. The main point: if a hostage situation were to arise, there will not be negotiating or bargaining with those taking hostages. The exact wording from the legal statute taken from California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 3304:

"Employees must not permit inmates or others to use hostages to escape from custody or otherwise interfere with orderly institutional operations. Hostages will not be recognized for bargaining purposes. All inmates, visitors and staff will be informed of this regulation."

These kinds of situations are extremely rare, but all visitors are informed of the statute before entry.

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