

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITAL  
STATEWIDE PROPERTY CONTRABAND LIST

Revised: 6/23



CONTRABAND

- A. "Contraband" means materials, articles or goods that patients are prohibited from having in their possession because such materials or goods present a risk to safety and security in the facility. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 7295, subd. (i); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 881(e).
- B. All items that are illegal to possess are by default considered contraband, whether specifically contained in this list or not. This includes any items prohibited as a condition of parole as it applies to any patients on active parole while housed in a Department of State Hospital (DSH) facility.
- C. Items prohibited or restricted to use only under supervision or control shall be considered contraband for the purposes of this list, as they should not be in patient's possession without supervision.
  - 1. Any policy, manual, directive or other facility or DSH document deemed to be "Patient Restricted"
  - 2. Any item(s) that is being used in an improper manner and/or altered in such a manner as to present a danger to the safety of any patient, staff member or visitor as well as, any item, when modified from its original stated purpose, is considered contraband.
  - 3. Alcoholic beverages, hand sanitizers or any item containing alcohol.
  - 4. All federal or state, illegal drugs, including but not limited to: narcotics, marijuana, hallucinogenic and non-prescribed medications.
  - 5. All smoking and tobacco products pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 4138. This includes electronic cigarettes, commonly referred to as – e-cigarettes, electronic vaping device, personal vaporizer (PV) or electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS).
  - 6. Balloons or plastic wrap.
  - 7. Blank State of California or other hospital related letterhead or stationary.
  - 8. Cameras, including both video recording or still photo cameras.
  - 9. Chemicals not provided by the hospital, including, but not limited to; mace, tear gas, cleaning chemicals in any form; combustible, corrosive, lacquers, shellac and acetone, acetone-based nail polish remover flammable liquids, explosives, or explosive-making materials.
  - 10. Combs and hairbrushes containing metal or wood, or of any material, exceeding 8 inches in overall length.
  - 11. Combustible, corrosive, flammable liquids or explosives and explosive making materials or incendiary devices, including but not limited to, matches and lighters.
  - 12. Correcting fluid/tape (White-out of any type).

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITAL  
STATEWIDE PROPERTY CONTRABAND LIST**

Revised: 6/23



13. Detachable external speakers with cords.
14. Medication, medicating products or dietary supplements not provided, or specifically approved by the hospital. Medications prescribed but not consumed at time of issue, unless specifically approved.
15. Electronic devices able to send and/or receive information via a communications network; electronic devices modified to send and/or receive information via a communications network; digital, voice, or visual recording devices; digital memory storage devices including gaming devices capable of accessing digital data; other storage media, and approved electronic devices or items in excess of the limits set by regulation or the hospital pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 9, section 4350.
16. Escape devices such as lock picks, devices made capable of opening handcuff/restraint and or any metal or other material fashioned into a lock picking device.
17. Metal objects, including but not limited to, finger files containing metal or plastic as well as, exceeding 1.5 inches in length with a pointed tip; items containing metal bindings, including but not limited to, books and binders; hypodermic needles, sewing needles, knitting needles or crochet needles; metal headphones or headphones with metal in headband; keys; any tools or metal utensils not being used under staff supervision
18. Furniture not issued by facility.
19. Gang related or gang identifying items, as identified by the facility, including but not limited to, no advertisements of anything drug or gang related, state issued clothing that has been altered or any clothing displayed in a manner commonly associated with gangs
20. Glass or glass like items, including but not limited to Plexiglass and Lexan glass, that could present a safety hazard to the facility. This includes glass mirrors, containers, glass fragments, and ceramics.
21. Herbal foods or teas not purchased from canteen or exchange, or approved vendor if no canteen is available at facility.
22. Identification items or financial payment methods, driver's licenses, birth certificate, bonds, social security cards, credit cards, bank books, or any form of identification not provided by the hospital unless expressly permitted as part of a treatment plan.
23. Purses, bags or luggage with straps.
24. Medical equipment, supply or device not prescribed, approved or provided by the facility. Medical equipment received during the intake process will

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITAL  
STATEWIDE PROPERTY CONTRABAND LIST**

Revised: 6/23



be reviewed on a case by case basis and approved by the facility Medical Director.

25. Maps of local and surrounding counties; any source literature, including local maps or electronic devices capable of displaying maps.
26. Material giving instruction on escape, bomb making, bugging, surveillance, surreptitious entry, acts of violence or any illegal activity.
27. Materials used in tattooing including but not limited to fountain pens, ink, paint, transfer paper and electronics with accessible motor.
28. Non-State issued clothing unless approved. Approved items include shoes, caps, beanies, gloves, or undergarments that do not meet other contraband criteria.
29. Personal information of any nature (including, but not limited to home address, telephone numbers and photographs) of any District Attorney, Law Enforcement employee, any staff member, volunteer or contract employee of the Department of State Hospitals. Personal information of any victim is subject to Administrative review and may be considered contraband, depending on the nature of the relationship of the victim to the patient.
30. Personal property held in quantities exceeding institutional set space limitations.
31. Plastic bags 1-quart size or larger and metal or sheet foils.
32. Child pornography or child erotica in any medium, including video, still-photograph, animation, or drawing. Child erotica includes images that do not necessarily contain child nudity or sexual acts, but that are sexually suggestive or designed to sexually arouse the viewer with children in sexual clothing or poses, or sadist/masochistic poses such as being tied up or chained.
33. Pressurized air, including but not limited to air horns, air compressors, blow horns, pressurized dispensers and sirens.
34. Radios or scanning/monitoring devices capable of receiving or interfering with law enforcement/fire emergency broadcast, shortwave or CB radios of any type, satellite radios.
35. Rope, twine, wire.
36. Sandpaper and emery cloth.
37. Shoe polish or dye.
38. Shoelaces when removed from shoe.
39. Shoes with steel shanks, hollow heels or magnetic components. Stilettos or heels above 1 ½ inches.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITAL  
STATEWIDE PROPERTY CONTRABAND LIST

Revised: 6/23



- 40. Styrofoam.
- 41. Sunglasses that are reflective.
- 42. Tape not issued by the facility.
- 43. Telephone directories;
- 44. Umbrellas.
- 45. Weapons that can inflict bodily harm, including but not limited to guns, knives, pepper spray, "brass" knuckles of any material, batons, and/or sling shots. Items sharpened, molded, or modified to be used as a clubbing, stabbing, cutting, or projectile item shall also be considered weapons.

David Starnes, Chief of Law Enforcement  
Department of State Hospitals

7/14/2020

Date

Stephanie Clendendin, Director  
Department of State Hospitals

7/14/2020

Date