

**Vermont Department of Corrections  
Out of State Unit  
Memo**

**To:** All Staff and Inmates

**From:** Dominic Damato, Facility Operations & Out of State Manager

**Date:** May 22, 2017

**Re:** Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) #3

Below are more questions and answers regarding the transition to PADOC.

1. How will we continue to use the phones at NLCF after our accounts are closed so our money can be transferred to PADOC?	It is our intent to keep the phones at NLCF on as long as possible. We would like to reduce the time between your account closing in Michigan and you having phone access in Pennsylvania.
2. Will inmates be required to pay co-pays for medical care?	Only PADOC policies and procedures will be followed under this contract so, yes, there is a \$5 medical co-pay for some processes.  See – <a href="#">Medical Co-Pay</a>
3. Will inmates on special diets receive these diets upon arrival in PADOC?	As mentioned in FAQ#1, a medical screening will occur during the first few days of your arrival so you will need to re-apply for all special accommodations.  This would include and special diets.
4. How long will the classification process take?	The orientation and classification process normally takes anywhere from three to five days.

<p>5. Will Vermont inmates have access to Prisoner’s Rights?</p>	<p>You should have access to the Defender General’s Office. Their website states, “The Prisoners’ Rights Office addresses a wide range of issues that deal with the fact, length and conditions of confinement and community supervision for people serving sentences.”</p> <p>You can always contact them directly.</p> <p><b>Prisoners' Rights Office</b>  6 Baldwin Street, 4th Floor  Montpelier, VT 05633-3301  (802) 828-3194  (802) 828-3163 (fax)</p>
<p>6. Will anyone from Prisoner’s Rights be at NLCF prior to the transition to Pennsylvania?</p>	<p>No. There will not be representatives from their office visiting NLCF prior to the transition to PADO.</p>
<p>7. How large are the pods/units where VT inmates will be housed? Are there single or double bunked cells?</p>	<p>These details will be dependent on the living unit/facility an inmate is assigned to.</p>
<p>8. Will Vermont inmates have to pay for television packages like PADO inmates?</p>	<p>Only PADO policies and procedures will be followed under this contract so, yes, there is a fee of \$17.00/month for cable.</p> <p>Inmates also have the option of purchasing a flat digital antenna from the commissary for \$10.86 for basic channels.</p> <p>See – <a href="#">Cable Television</a></p>

<p>9. Why will it take 1 -2 weeks to activate a phone account and PIN? Is there something the VTDOC can do to speed up this process?</p>	<p>There are 47,000 inmates in the PADOC who Securus supports with phone accounts. It is reasonable for 270 new accounts to take a week or two.</p> <p>Neither the PADOC nor the VTDOC have impact on speeding up phone account activation.</p>
<p>10. Will a care package be given upon arrival in Pennsylvania that includes items to ease anxiety?</p>	<p>You will be provided with clothing, basic hygiene items and an orientation packet upon intake.</p>
<p>11. How will inmates receive funds from banks, the Veterans Administration etc.? These sources won't use JPay.</p>	<p>The PADOC will accept legitimate business transactions (VA, inheritance, insurance claim etc.) sent to an inmate while housed with them.</p> <p>These checks would need to be sent to the inmate, the check would be forwarded to the business office for authenticity and if verifiable, deposited. If not verified, the check would be returned to sender.</p>
<p>12. Inmates have many items that are not clear but were purchased through approved prison vendors (radios, Walkman's, headphones, CD players etc.) Can these be grandfathered?</p>	<p>As mentioned in FAQ#2 - exceptions have been made so that you are permitted to have some non-transparent items.</p> <p>See – PADOC Property list</p>
<p>13. Inmates would like to be able to call home quickly to let family know where we're at when we get to Pennsylvania.</p>	<p>There will be approximately 270 inmates to process. Getting everyone booked in and processed through the orientation and classification process is the priority.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to send out mail during this time so you can alert your friends and family.</p>

<p>14. Will we have access to Vermont's recreation fund?</p>	<p>The inmates housed with PADOC under this contract will be there under the Interstate Corrections Compact. The compact covers day to day issues and recreation fund would be one of them. The VTDOC Inmate Recreation Fund does not apply to inmates housed under the compact.</p>
<p>15. Vermont in-state inmates who owned JPay tablets were all issued new tablets by GTL when VT changed vendors. Since PADOC utilizes GTL for tablet services, can VTDOC arrange with GTL for those of us with JPay tablets to receive a GTL tablet upon our transfer?</p>	<p>Vermont has not gone to GTL tablets yet and won't be until early fall.</p> <p>Vermont inmates will not be issued GTL tablets – as such, VT inmates in Pennsylvania will not be issued tablets.</p> <p>PADOC has tablets specific to their system that are available for purchase.</p>
<p>16. Will VTDOC issue all of us a hardship allowance upon the transfer to help offset the cost of hundreds of dollars worth of items that will have to be re-purchased?</p>	<p>Inmates were given a month's notice of the NLCF commissary end date in order for inmates to consume the edible items before being transferred to PADOC.</p> <p>Some major exceptions were made on the PADOC property list to reduce the re-purchasing.</p> <p>No hardship allowance will be issued.</p>
<p>17. Will video visits be available in the future?</p>	<p>That is unknown by the PADOC at this time.</p>
<p>18. How long will it take for funds to transfer from NLCF to our accounts with PADOC?</p>	<p>It is the intent to have available funds transferred to PADOC and in an account by the time the orientation and classification process is complete.</p>

<p>19. Will Vermont inmates receive seven stamps per week as we currently do?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>20. Can roommates be assigned ahead of time to reduce anxiety?</p>	<p>There is no way to determine what facility/housing unit each inmate will be assigned to as there are variables to consider. PADO need to look at classification, separation issues, accommodation need and security precautions for example.</p> <p>Housing assignments will be made after the orientation and classification process is completed for each inmate. It is your responsibility to inform the staff of any preferences you have about your cell assignment. A preference filed by you will be assessed by staff, but not necessarily granted.</p> <p>See – <a href="#">Inmate Handbook (page 14)</a></p>
<p>21. Are there non-smoking units or only smoking units?</p>	<p>All of the living units and buildings are smoke free. There is a “Clean Indoor Air Act” that provides clarity on this issue.</p> <p>Smoking is only permitted in designated areas outside.</p> <p>See – <a href="#">Clean Indoor Air Act</a></p>

<p>22. Will personal clothing (i.e. sweat suits, t-shirts, boxers and socks) be grandfathered since they're purchased through facility approved vendors in Vermont and NLCF?</p>	<p>There are specific clothing items issues to all inmates in PADOV for free. They were listed in FAQ#1.</p> <p>Items currently in possession of inmates at NLCF are not allowed (sweat suits, white t-shirts, socks etc.)</p> <p>If inmates at NLCF personally possess items that are allowed by PADOV (i.e. brown t-shirt) AND would not put the inmate over the allowable limit after the PADOV state issue, then yes, you can retain those items in your property.</p> <p>No other property items will be grandfathered.</p>
<p>23. Will PADOV be able to transfer VT inmates to and from other PA facilities if bed space becomes an issue? We are concerned that both Camp Hill and Graterford are already at or over capacity.</p>	<p>As mentioned in FAQ#2, if we have an increase requiring use beyond the bed capacity of the unit primarily assigned to VTDOC, or if classification or behavior problems arise, PADOV has the right to move inmates throughout their system under the Interstate Corrections Compact.</p> <p>There are 4,000 empty beds in the PADOV and they have dedicated space for VTDOC inmates by sending some of their own to other facilities.</p>
<p>24. How long will it take to receive our personal property that will be shipped to Pennsylvania from NLCF?</p>	<p>The plan is to have all allowable property delivered to PADOV by the time the VTDOC inmates have been processed through the orientation and classification process.</p>

For more information:

See [PADOV Handbook English](#) or [PADOV Handbook Spanish](#)