



Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Brad Livingston
Executive Director

April 22, 2009

Letter No.: 9-00-1195

MIM (Prisons)
P. O. Box 40799
San Francisco, California 94140

RE: DENIED PUBLICATONS
HUGHES UNIT

Dear :

Your recent letter addressed to the Ombudsman Coordinator was forwarded to this office for disposition.

The TDCJ Mail System Coordinators Panel (MSCP) oversees mail operations at all facilities in our control and ensures that correspondence policies are being properly applied. In discussion with mailroom officials at the Hughes Unit this date it was learned that the newsletter you inquired about – *Under Lock & Key* – has been received at the unit but was denied for delivery to the intended offenders due to containing information that would jeopardize the safe operation of the facility. A number of the offenders you named did appeal the denial and a review was completed by the Director's Review Committee (DRC), which is the final arbiter for all such denials. The DRC subsequently upheld the denial and the individual offenders who appealed were allowed to indicate how they wished the publication to be disposed of. It was learned as well that your newsletter is not on the list of approved publications offenders are allowed to receive. As such, each time a newsletter is received it is forwarded to the MSCP for review and a decision as to whether it can be delivered. If approved, the newsletter is then delivered to the offender. However, if denied, the offender is provided a form documenting the denial and affording him the opportunity to make disposition.

All offender mail, both incoming and outgoing, is reviewed by unit staff to ensure that it does not contain information regarding illegal activities. A correspondence denial form is provided to the offender when it is determined that such a situation exists and includes instructions regarding appeal of this decision and/or disposition of the item. General offender mail is not logged; therefore, we have no way of determining whether a specific letter you sent has been received at the unit. If any of the offenders you listed feel that a problem exists with their mail they should contact the mailroom supervisor for assistance.

We trust this information addresses your concerns. If you have additional questions regarding the mail process or what publications are approved, it is suggested that you contact the MSCP at P. O. Box 99; Huntsville, Texas 77342-0099.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane M. Cockerham".

Jane M. Cockerham
TDCJ-CID Office of Ombudsman

JMC/jc
CC: File

Our mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime

TDCJ-CID Office of Ombudsman · P.O. Box 99 · Huntsville, TX 77342 · (936) 437-6791 · Fax (936) 437-6668 ·
ci.div@tdcj.state.tx.us.