

**Prisoners Literature Project
c/o Bound Together Bookstore
1369 Haight Street
San Francisco, CA 94117**

(rev. 3/25)

PLP ORDERING GUIDELINES

The Prisoners Literature Project has been sending **free books to prisoners** for over 30 years. Funded entirely by donations, we're all volunteers, working out of a small space filled with books. Because we receive over 300 letters every week, and want to help as many people as possible, **please limit your requests to once every nine months, and share the books after you've read them.** Here are our guidelines:

1. Please be patient. Because we get so many book requests, we are generally up to three months behind in responding. We do the best we can with limited resources. Please take our turnaround time into account if you're going to be transferred or paroled.

2. Please only request for yourself. Do not use someone else's name and number to request more books for yourself. You are welcome to encourage friends to write or make requests! Sharing envelopes is also fine, but please make sure everyone writes their own request if they can; we want to serve everyone, which means we cannot send multiple packages to one person.

3. Let us know your prison's book restrictions. Do they allow used books, or new only? How many books can we send? Are any subjects prohibited? Prison restrictions change all the time, so we appreciate any updates. We can no longer take 'prior approval' requests.

4. List the subjects or types of books you're interested in, instead of specific titles or authors. We do not have a catalog, because all of our books are donated, and change every week. We generally have plenty of **non-fiction**, including books on **history, politics, science, natural history, prison, psychology, LGBTQ+ topics, how-to guides, and more.** We also have lots of **fiction**, including **African American, Latinx, and Native American titles.**

Many of these book topics are in high demand, and we can run out of them quickly – so please **be sure to list any and all topics you are interested in.** We will always do our best to send you what you ask for. Because of postage fees, we also have to limit the weight of the packages we send.

We have a small selection of **children's books for parents** who would like to read to, or with, their children when they visit. Please specify your children's ages so that we can send the most appropriate books.

We also have **large print books!**

Important: We do *not* carry law books, Bibles, or Christian literature. We will ***not*** send conspiracy, racist, sexist, or homophobic material.

5. Please write clearly — especially your name, ID number, and address. Be sure to write your full address in two places: on the envelope, and in your letter. We always appreciate your thank-you letters and art!

6. We don't offer legal advice, and we don't have a pen pal service. Sorry.

OTHER INFORMATION RESOURCES

If your prison allows it, we will include a copy of the *P.A.R.C. Resource Directory* in our book package to you. Here are three additional resources we can provide on request:

1. The Insider's Guide to Jailhouse Law

Published by the Prison Book Program, *The Insider's Guide to Jailhouse Law* (formerly titled "*We the People*" *Legal Primer*) is a basic legal resource containing key law terms, post-conviction remedies, advice on court appearances, and more. You can also ask a friend or family member to download the legal primer for free from this website:

<https://prisonbookprogram.org/for-people-in-prison/legal-resources>.

2. Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Reentry

This practical guide helps you assess your skills and strengths and helps identify challenges you may face. It lists educational options to prepare for reentry now. You can learn about how to obtain important documents, secure housing, and take care of your physical and mental health on the outside.

3. The Jailhouse Lawyers' Handbook

Published jointly by the National Lawyers Guild and the Center for Constitutional Rights, the *Jailhouse Lawyers' Handbook* explains how a prisoner can start a lawsuit in federal court to fight against mistreatment and poor conditions in prison. It also contains general information about the American legal system. This requires submitting an online application: we will do this for you!

<https://www.jailouselaw.org/request-a-printed-copy> (if you have someone who wants to order)

These resources are free and can be directly requested from the organization

Root & Rebound

This nonprofit reentry advocacy center publishes guides to help prisoners understand, prepare for, and navigate reentry before parole or release. In addition to its national guide, **Root & Rebound** lists resources specifically for people in prison in California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota, and those in Native American communities. Download Root & Rebound guides online at:

www.rootandrebound.org/get-support/resources.

LGBT Books to Prisoners lgbtbookstoprisoners@gmail.com (subject line: prisoner book order)

This nonprofit group sends up to two packages of books and other resources per year free of charge to LGBTQ+-identified prisoners across the U.S. To make a book request, send a letter with your name, ID#, address, and the genres of books you'd like to the address below. **LGBT Books to Prisoners** also asks that people self-identify in their first letter.

LGBT Books to Prisoners c/o Social Justice Center Incubator
1202 Williamson Street, Suite 1
Madison, WI 53703

That's about it. We really hope you enjoy the free books. Take care and stay strong.

PLP volunteers