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**No. S 684**

PRISONS ACT  
(CHAPTER 247)

PRISONS (POLICE LOCK-UPS AND TEMPORARY LOCK-UPS)  
REGULATIONS 2013

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In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4(3) of the Prisons Act, the Minister for Home Affairs hereby makes the following Regulations:

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## Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Prisons (Police Lock-ups and Temporary Lock-ups) Regulations 2013 and shall come into operation on 11th November 2013.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

## Definitions

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“authorised officer” means —

(a) for a police lock-up —

- (i) a police officer assigned by or on behalf of the officer-in-charge of a police lock-up to perform, at the police lock-up, the duties specified in regulation 6; or
- (ii) an auxiliary police officer employed under section 50B of the Act as an escort or a guard to ensure the safe custody of any person who is under the auxiliary police officer’s custody while the person is transported to, or from, any police lock-up or while the person is at any place outside a police lock-up; and

(b) for a temporary lock-up —

- (i) a police officer assigned by or on behalf of the officer-in-charge of a temporary lock-up to perform, at the temporary lock-up, the duties specified in regulation 6;
- (ii) an auxiliary police officer employed under section 50B of the Act as an escort or a guard to ensure the safe custody of any person who is under the auxiliary police officer’s custody while the person is transported to, or from, any temporary lock-up or while the person is at any place outside a temporary lock-up; or
- (iii) a prison officer assigned by or on behalf of the officer-in-charge of the temporary lock-up,

with the approval of the Commissioner, to perform, at the temporary lock-up, the duties specified in regulation 6;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

*[Deleted by S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

“Commissioner of Police” means the Commissioner of Police appointed under section 6(1) of the Police Force Act (Cap. 235);

*[Deleted by S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

“lock-up officer” means the police officer appointed under regulation 4(4) for a police lock-up or temporary lock-up;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

“lock-up prisoner” —

(a) in relation to a police lock-up, means a person, whether convicted or not, who is confined in the police lock-up, or who is transported to, or from, the police lock-up; and

(b) in relation to a temporary lock-up, means a person, whether convicted or not, who is confined in the temporary lock-up, or who is transported to, or from, the temporary lock-up;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

“officer-in-charge” means the officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or a temporary lock-up under regulation 4(2);

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

“police lock-up” means a lock-up specified under regulation 3(1);

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

“temporary lock-up” means a temporary lock-up appointed under section 4(1A) of the Act, or the appointment of which is extended under section 4(1B) of the Act, for the confinement of the arrested persons described in section 4(1A) of the Act.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

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**Application**

3.—(1) These Regulations apply to, and in relation to, any lock-up in —

- (a) [*Deleted by S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026*]
- (b) Ang Mo Kio Division Headquarters at 51 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 9, Singapore 569784;
- (c) Bedok Division Headquarters at 30 Bedok North Road, Singapore 469676;
- (d) Central Division Headquarters at 391 New Bridge Road, Singapore 088762;
- (e) [*Deleted by S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026*]
- (f) [*Deleted by S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026*]
- (g) Jurong Division Headquarters at 2 Jurong West Avenue 5, Singapore 649482;
- (h) Tanglin Division Headquarters at 21 Kampong Java Road, Singapore 228892;
- (i) Traffic Police Headquarters at 10 Ubi Avenue 3, Singapore 408865;
- (j) Woodlands Division Headquarters at 1 Woodlands Street 12, Singapore 738622;
- (k) Family Justice Courts at 3 Havelock Square, Singapore 059725; and
- (l) Syariah Court at Family Link @ Lengkok Bahru, 8 Lengkok Bahru, Singapore 159052.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(2) These Regulations also apply to, and in relation to, any temporary lock-up.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

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## **General charge and administration of police lock-ups and temporary lock-ups**

4.—(1) The general charge and administration of any police lock-up or temporary lock-up, and the control of any officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up, shall be vested in the Commissioner of Police, being duly authorised under section 50A of the Act.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(2) The Commissioner of Police may appoint an officer-in-charge for any police lock-up or temporary lock-up.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(3) The officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall ensure that all laws, regulations and orders relating to the police lock-up or temporary lock-up, lock-up prisoners, authorised officers and other staff are strictly adhered to and all records are properly maintained.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(4) The officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall appoint a police officer not below the rank of Sergeant as a lock-up officer for the police lock-up or temporary lock-up to assist the officer-in-charge in the day-to-day management and administration of that police lock-up or temporary lock-up.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

## **Condition of cells in police lock-ups and temporary lock-ups**

5. The officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall —

(a) ensure that the police lock-up or temporary lock-up is clean;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(b) ensure that sanitary arrangements in the police lock-up or temporary lock-up are in a satisfactory condition;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(c) cause the state of the cells in the police lock-up or temporary lock-up and their security features to be examined frequently;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(d) cause any unauthorised or dangerous article found in the police lock-up or temporary lock-up to be seized; and

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(e) cause a report to be made of every seizure of any unauthorised or dangerous article.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

## **Duties**

6. An authorised officer shall be detailed daily by the lock-up officer appointed for a police lock-up or temporary lock-up —

(a) to ensure that the police lock-up or temporary lock-up is inspected;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(b) to ensure that meals for lock-up prisoners confined in the police lock-up or temporary lock-up are served regularly;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(c) to ensure that no lock-up prisoner of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up is in possession of any unauthorised or dangerous article;

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(d) to ensure that, where bail is granted to a lock-up prisoner of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up, release of the lock-up prisoner is not unduly delayed; and

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(e) to assist the lock-up officer in the daily operations of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

## **Meals**

7.—(1) Every lock-up prisoner confined in a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall be provided with food that —

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- (a) in terms of nutritional value, is adequate for basic health; and
  - (b) is in accordance with the types of food which are approved by or on behalf of the Commissioner of Police to be provided to lock-up prisoners.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(2) For the purposes of this regulation, “food” includes drink.

### **Lock-up prisoners with illness**

**8.** The officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall, without delay, refer to a medical officer or a registered medical practitioner any case where a lock-up prisoner of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up is believed to be suffering from any illness or mental disorder.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

### **Notification of death**

**9.** The officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall ensure, upon the death of any lock-up prisoner of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up, that immediate notice thereof is given to the Commissioner of Police and the most accessible known relative of the lock-up prisoner.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

### **Maintenance of records**

**10.** A record of each lock-up prisoner confined in a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall be prepared and maintained by an authorised officer in such manner, form and medium as approved by or on behalf of the Commissioner of Police.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

### **Search of lock-up prisoners**

**11.—(1)** A lock-up prisoner may be physically searched by an authorised officer with due regard to decency, except that a female lock-up prisoner shall only be searched by an authorised officer who is female.

(2) An authorised officer searching a lock-up prisoner may use such equipment as may be approved by or on behalf of the Commissioner of Police for the purpose of the search.

(3) Except with the express approval of the officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up —

(a) no lock-up prisoner of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up may retain possession of any personal property while the lock-up prisoner is confined in that police lock-up or temporary lock-up; and

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(b) all of the personal property of each lock-up prisoner of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall be delivered to the lock-up officer appointed for that police lock-up or temporary lock-up for the period of the lock-up prisoner's confinement in the police lock-up or temporary lock-up.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(4) The lock-up officer appointed for a police lock-up or temporary lock-up may destroy any personal property delivered to the lock-up officer under paragraph (3)(b) that is of a perishable or dangerous nature.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

### **Visitors may be searched**

**12.—**(1) Every visitor to a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall —

(a) furnish the officer-in-charge, or an authorised officer, of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up, with the visitor's name and address; and

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(b) permit the officer-in-charge, or an authorised officer, of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up, to search the visitor's person and personal property.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

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- (2) A search conducted under paragraph (1)(b) —
- (a) shall not take place in the presence of any lock-up prisoner of, or of another visitor to, the police lock-up or temporary lock-up;  
*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*
  - (b) shall be conducted with due regard to decency; and
  - (c) if to be conducted on a female, shall only be conducted by an authorised officer who is female.

(3) A lock-up officer of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up may deny a visitor admission to the police lock-up or temporary lock-up, if —

- (a) the visitor refuses to be searched; or
- (b) the lock-up officer is of the opinion that the visitor's admission would be prejudicial to the security or good order of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up.  
*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*  
*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(4) Where a lock-up officer denies any visitor admission to a police lock-up or temporary lock-up under paragraph (3), the lock-up officer must record the grounds of the lock-up officer's refusal in a report to the officer-in-charge of that police lock-up or temporary lock-up.  
*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

### **Movement of lock-up prisoners**

**13.** The movement of a lock-up prisoner in every police lock-up and temporary lock-up shall be recorded in a lock-up Prisoners' Movement Board or by any other electronic means.  
*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

### **Separation of lock-up prisoners**

**14.—(1)** The officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up may order the separation of lock-up prisoners in the interest of the safe custody, security and good order of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up.  
*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(2) A female lock-up prisoner shall be kept in a cell separate from any male lock-up prisoner.

(3) A female lock-up prisoner shall be kept in a cell that provides reasonable privacy.

(4) A female lock-up prisoner shall not be attended to by persons of the opposite sex except in the presence of an authorised officer who is female.

(5) A lock-up prisoner below 16 years of age, whether male or female, shall be kept apart from any other lock-up prisoner who is 16 years of age or older.

(6) Whenever possible, a lock-up prisoner who is violent, drunk, disorderly or mentally disordered shall be separately confined.

### **Clothing**

15. Every lock-up prisoner of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up shall, where required by the officer-in-charge of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up, wear such clothing as the officer-in-charge may specify.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

### **Lock-up prisoners with special needs**

16. Any lock-up prisoner of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up who is assessed by the officer-in-charge of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up to have special needs, or conditions that warrant enhanced attention, shall be accorded with such custodial arrangements, based on the corresponding specific needs or conditions of the lock-up prisoner, as to ensure that lock-up prisoner's safety and the safety of the other lock-up prisoners of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

### **Use of force**

17.—(1) Any authorised officer may use force according to guidelines approved by or on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, if it is necessary for the security and good order of a police

lock-up or temporary lock-up or for the safety and welfare of the lock-up prisoners or other persons therein.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(2) No more force than is necessary in the circumstances, for the purposes of control and protection and with due regard to the personal safety of authorised officers and others, must be used.

(3) Where force is used on a lock-up prisoner of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up —

(a) the lock-up prisoner must, as soon as practicable, be brought to a medical officer or a registered medical practitioner —

(i) to be examined for injury; and

(ii) for any injury and other observations to be recorded; and

(b) a report of the matter must be made to the officer-in-charge of the police lock-up or temporary lock-up immediately.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

## **Firearms**

**18.** Unless otherwise approved by the officer-in-charge of a police lock-up or temporary lock-up, no person shall carry in any firearm within the police lock-up or temporary lock-up.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

## **Restraints**

**19.—**(1) Restraints may be employed to prevent any lock-up prisoner from inflicting injury to himself or herself or another person, damaging property, creating any disturbance or escaping.

*[S 314/2026 wef 01/06/2026]*

(2) Any restraint applied on a lock-up prisoner shall be removed as soon as the purpose for which it was first applied is no longer applicable.

(3) No restraint shall, under any circumstances, be used for the purpose of punishing a lock-up prisoner.

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(4) The types of restraints used for restraining a lock-up prisoner, their application under various situations and safeguards for the prevention of their abuse shall be approved by or on behalf of the Commissioner of Police.

### **Revocation**

**20.** The Prisons (Lock-ups) Regulations (Rg 1) are revoked.

Made this 18th day of October 2013.

TAN TEE HOW  
*Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
Singapore.*

[MHA 112/2/044.; AG/LLRD/SL/247/2010/7 Vol. 1]