

Inspection visit to Tartu Prison

On 17 May 2013 and 20–21 May 2013 advisers to the Chancellor of Justice paid an announced inspection visit to the Tartu Prison. A family physician was involved in the inspection visit as a health care expert.

As a result of the inspection visit the Chancellor of Justice makes five recommendations to the Tartu Prison to guarantee the fundamental rights of persons:

1. to consider the situation where means of restraint are used on an imprisoned person for more than 10 consecutive minutes as being the application of a continuous means of restraint in its practice and to complete at all times part III “Examination in the event of using continuous means of restraint” of the report concerning the use of physical force, service weapon, special equipment or means of restraint and examination of the state of health of the offender;
2. in the event of continuous restraint with handcuffs, to examine the restrained imprisoned person by communicating directly with the person at least every 15 minutes;
3. to reflect, in detail, the result of the examination performed by a health care professional in the report concerning the use of physical force, service weapon, special equipment or means of restraint and examination of state of health of the offender and to indicate other data concerning the examination performed by the health care professional (time of examination, name and signature of the health care professional) in the report;
4. to carry out the medical examination of the imprisoned person prescribed in subsection 71 (7¹) of the Imprisonment Act and performed by a health care professional after escorting the imprisoned person as well, if means of restraint have been used during the escort. A respective report must be prepared for use of means of restraint and performance of medical examination;
5. to continue organisation of training courses in the field of mental disorders for the prison service.