



Kelly A. Martinez
Sheriff

Detention Services Bureau, Detention In-Service Training Unit
Telephone: [REDACTED]

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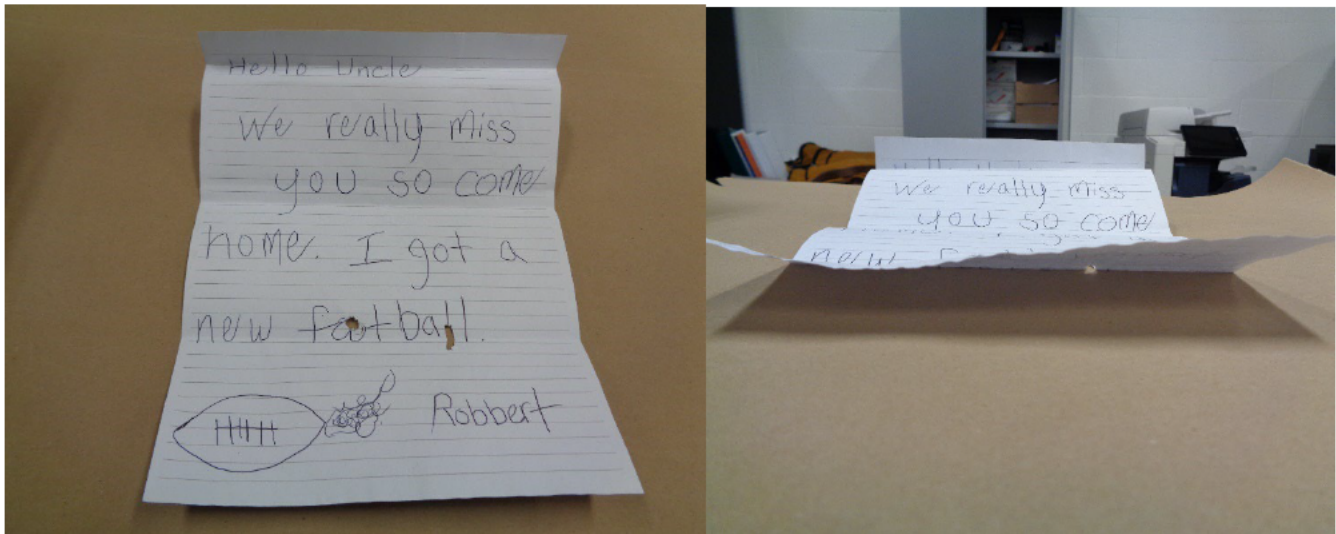
TACTICAL TIP

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Fictitious Legal Mail Containing Fentanyl

The number of narcotics being brought into our facilities is a continuous battle we must overcome. There has been an increase in fictitious legal mail, concealing narcotics, entering our facilities. The Mail Processing Center (MPC) **does not** inspect and open legal mail. The legal mail is sent directly to our facilities, where deputies open and inspect the legal mail in front of the incarcerated person. Deputies must be prepared for the possibility of any legal mail containing narcotics and shall utilize the appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE). When removing the legal mail from the envelope, carefully inspect every page for contraband and/or narcotics. At a minimum, deputies should wear nitrile gloves when handling any mail addressed to the incarcerated person.

Earlier this year, the MPC and Detentions Investigation Unit (DIU) intercepted a suspicious letter with a **white powdery substance flaking off it**, which tested positive for fentanyl. In the most recent case, four suspicious letters labeled "Legal Mail" were intercepted. The Sheriff's Crime Lab confirmed two of the four letters were soaked in a mixture of methamphetamine and fentanyl. The MPC became suspicious of the letters because they appeared **to be saturated in a liquid and then dried** (one of the most common signs of methamphetamine saturation). See the picture below:





Keep these tips in mind when distributing legal mail to the individuals in our custody:

- Wear appropriate PPE when handling mail.
- Open legal mail in the presence of the I/P, being mindful of appropriate distances to limit any potential narcotics exposure.
- Remove the legal mail from the envelope and thoroughly inspect every page.
- If any piece of mail (i.e., stamp, envelope, page) appears to have been previously soaked or possesses any other questionable characteristics, immediately place it into a K-Pak bag, seal it, and notify DIU via email.
- Utilize a "Cover" partner when handling any mail possibly containing narcotics.
- If a TruNarc is used and the device indicates a "*Positive*" Reading, immediately begin your investigation, and make appropriate notifications to your supervisor and DIU.
- If a TruNarc is used and the device indicates "*Inconclusive*", place the laser focus on another section of the suspected narcotic and retest. This may result in a different reading.
- If the substance in question repeatedly indicates "*Inconclusive*" with the TruNarc device, it shall be treated as narcotics. Conduct a preliminary investigation and notify DIU via email.
- When writing a possible narcotics report, be sure to include the totality of the circumstances. **Describe in detail the events and indications that led you to believe the "*Inconclusive*" reading may be a narcotic-soaked substance.**
- Do not request laboratory service for the unknown substance. A DIU detective assigned to the case will make the request.

*Working together with DIU and the MPC will help reduce the number of narcotics entering our facility.
Remain vigilant, be punctilious, and stay safe!*

Review [Department Policy and Procedure section 6.29 - Property Control System](#) and [Detentions Policy and Procedure Section P.3](#) for more information on the processing of mail and the handling of evidence.