

Office of Governor Crist  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist,

I am writing on behalf of WriteAPrisoner.com regarding the Florida Department of Corrections Rule 33-210.101 (9). This rule states: "(9) Inmates shall not use correspondence privileges to solicit or otherwise commercially advertise for money, goods or services. For the purposes of this rule this includes advertising for pen-pals; inmates are prohibited from receiving correspondence or materials from persons or groups marketing advertising services. Inmates who post ads or have ads posted with the assistance of another person shall be subject to disciplinary action."

I respectfully wish to inform the Governor's office that I am opposed to the rule based on the fact that it violates the First Amendment rights of inmates in Florida and is an attempt to censor what I can and cannot view on my own computer. In addition, the DOC is punishing its inmates for ads placed on the Internet by private citizens. Inmates do not have Internet access, and I do not believe the state has the right to punish an inmate for something placed on the Internet. How can the state justify punishing them for something which they have no control over? Furthermore, inmates posting legal ads and résumés on WriteAPrisoner.com and similar sites are also having these forced offline by the state. Florida's DOC website already posts inmates' names, addresses, and photos. There is no logical rationale for opposing inmates seeking friendship, jobs, etc. Is it not in society's best interests to promote positive interactions such as correspondence with pen pals?

I am requesting that your office intervene and abolish this DOC rule. I also request that this letter be entered into the official record in opposition of this rule. Please be assured that I will continue to stay apprised on this situation via WriteAPrisoner.com. I appreciate that the DOC is committed to reducing crime and recidivism, and I believe that establishing positive relationships for inmates is one step toward this shared goal. Governor Crist, you are known as "the People's Governor." Please show us that you mean all of the people. Thank you for your time. I look forward to your prompt response regarding this serious matter.

Respectfully,