



Certificate of Competency in Prison Law.
Course Synopsis: Manchester 2006-07*

THE INSTITUTE OF PRISON LAW
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"Passionate About Prisoners' Rights."

Course consists of ten full days – April 2006-March 2007 but not operated in July or August for holiday reasons. Each day consists of morning and afternoon sessions of 3 hours, each split into two sessions across a coffee break. Two half days are spent visiting prisons. Course leads to a Certificate of Competency in Prison Law, and 6 CPD points per day – attendance throughout the course provides all CPD points for both 2006 and 2007. The Certificate requires attendance of 80%+ and completion of 3 multiple choice tests, with 80%+ mark.

Head of Course

Elkan Abrahamson. Solicitor and partner AS Law Solicitors, Liverpool. Elkan has specialised in Prisoners' Rights for almost 20 years, and particularly life sentence prisoners; he has been a lecturer for IPL for seven years. Elkan has taken cases to the High Court over such issues as disciplinary adjudications, setting tariff dates and inmate access to facilities. He has also pursued actions before the ECHR. Elkan is the Legal Officer for the national ex-offenders charity UNLOCK.

Day 1. Friday 21st April 2006

Course introduction. Short history of imprisonment, the purpose of imprisonment, and the Prison Service 'mission statement'. Where to look; sources and resources, practitioner books and useful websites.

- 1 The statutory and regulatory framework of prisons. Prison Act 1952, Prison Rules 1999 (YOI Rules 2000). PSOs and PSIs.
- 2 Overview of what rights prisoners have. An introduction to the essential tools of defending and asserting rights; judicial review and applications to the CHR. Fairness, proportionality and reasons in decision-making.
- 3
 - a The prison estate and population. The organisation and structure of the prison service. Staff ranks. Types of institution. Private prisons. An introduction to NOMS.
 - b Boards of Visitors (IMBs), HM Inspector of Prisons, the Ombudsman, probation, chaplaincy, and listener schemes.

Day 2. Friday 12th May

Morning. Visit to HM Prison Styal. A public sector multi-functional female establishment that holds adults and young offenders, remands and convicted, Mother & Baby Unit, local prison and training prison functions.

Afternoon. Introduction to Human Rights. Human rights will be

Day 3 Friday 16th June

- 1 Request/complaint procedure.
- 2 Sentence planning. Incentives and privileges schemes. Prison work.
- 3 Categorisation and Allocation.
- 4 Funding prisoner legal advice and action; jr, CHR, civil actions, adjudications and lifer panels. LA franchise.

Day 4. Friday 8th Sept

- 1
 - a Special treatment of child prisoners and young offenders (18-21), women prisoners, mother and baby units.
 - b Treatment of remand, civil, and foreign national prisoners, immigration detainees and 'terrorist' internees.
- 2 Healthcare issues. Prison health and the NHS. Healthcare administration and forms. Confidentiality.
- 3 'Therapeutic' regimes, and Close Supervision Centres.
- 4 Mentally ill prisoners; care and transfer to hospital.

Day 5. Friday 6th Oct

- 1 Maintaining order. Intelligence, segregation, and force. Application to the private sector.
- 2 Adjudications. Discipline manual, Article 6 requirements. Procedural fairness. Independent adjudicators.
- 3 Case studies, and roll play; adjudications.
- 4 ditto

Day 6. Friday 3rd Nov;

Morning. Visit to HM Prison Risley, male category C training prison.
Afternoon. Risk assessment

Day 7. Friday 15th Dec;

- 1 Offending behaviour work, and prison education and courses. SOTP, ETS Think First, CALM, Alcohol awareness, Domestic violence.
- 2 CCRC.
- 3 Communications; Letters, visits, telephone calls, and computers. Access to the media.
- 4 Racism, discrimination and religious rights.

Day 8. Friday 12th Jan 2007;

- 1 Release regimes, and release date calculation. Tags, HDC, temporary licence. Intermittent imprisonment.
- 2 Licence. Issues re recall and re-offending whilst at risk.
- 3 The parole system.
- 4 Risk assessment, denial, licence and recall. Recall procedure and hearings.

Day 9. Friday 9th February 2007

- 1 Life imprisonment.
- 2 The lifer panels. Representations, procedure and evidence.
- 3 Case studies/role play; lifer panel
- 4 ditto

Day 10. Friday 9th March 2007

- 1 Death in custody. Prevention. Procedures; F2052SH. Article 2 and investigations. Disclosure and openness.**
- 2 Inquests.**
- 3 Actions for death, assault, false imprisonment, misfeasance, and negligence.**
- 4 Course open discussion.**

***This is the provisional synopsis; the final synopsis will be available by 6th February 2006. Both London and Manchester courses operate from April 2006 - March 2007, the dates shown here however are for Manchester only**