



British Embassy
Panama

Information Pack for British Prisoners in Panama

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INTRODUCTION

This guide aims to explain the Panamanian legal and prison system to British Nationals who are imprisoned in Panama. You can also read about how to apply for a transfer back to a UK prison.

Who can help?

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO):

The FCO is represented overseas by its Embassies and Consulates (High Commissions in Commonwealth countries). Both employ consular officers, and one of their jobs is to provide help and advice to any Briton who gets into difficulty in a foreign country.

About the Embassy

We are impartial; we are not here to judge you. We aim to make sure that you are treated properly and fairly in accordance with Panamanian regulations, and that you are treated no less favourably than other prisoners.

We can answer questions about your welfare and about prison regulations but you must ask your lawyer or the court about legal matters. The attached list of lawyers is provided by the British Embassy for your convenience, but neither Her Majesty's Government, nor any official of the Consulate, take any responsibility for the competence or probity of any firm/advocate on the list or for the consequences of any legal action initiated or advice given.

We cannot get you out of prison, pay fines or stand bail or interfere in local judicial procedures to get you out of prison nor secure you an earlier trial date; we cannot investigate a crime.

We have tried to make sure that the information in this booklet is accurate and up to date, but the British Embassy cannot accept legal responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information. If in doubt, contact a lawyer.

Who are the Consular Representatives?

Ana Lorena Jones Vice Consul	Tel: (507) 297-6550 Email: consular.panama@fco.gov.uk
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Contact Information:

British Embassy Panama

Consular Section
Calle 53 Marbella, MMG Tower 4to piso
Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá

Tel: (507) 297-6550 Ext. 2004

Fax: (507) 263-5138

Email: consular.panama@fco.gov.uk

Website: www.ukinpanama.fco.gov.uk

Working Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 07:30-16:30

Friday: 07:30-12:30

Consular Section - Public Attention Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 09:00-11:00

PRISONERS ABROAD

For more than 30 years the charity Prisoners Abroad (PA) has offered practical support and advice to Britons imprisoned overseas. It is the only UK charity providing this service and it is available to all. See page 24 for further information.

FIRST STEPS

Who will know that I have been detained?

As soon as a British citizen is arrested and detained in Panama, the Panamanian authorities must let the detainee contact the British Embassy in Panama, but we are frequently not informed within 24 hours. It is essential that you inform the British Embassy or Consulate as soon as possible after your arrest. It is your right to do so. You may also be able to make a phone call to the Embassy or to family (with a covering charge).

What will my family be told?

For reasons of confidentiality we are not permitted to tell anyone that you have been detained or what the charges are **without your permission**.

However, should you wish to inform your family, we can make contact with them through our colleagues in the FCO in London. We can give your family or next of kin advice on prison procedure, regulations, and how you are doing. We can also pass on any messages from you.

What will the Consulate do?

We aim to make contact with you within 24 hours of being notified of your arrest.

In case they wish to transfer any money to you, we can tell your friends or family how to transfer money through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London. Your family can contact the FCO on 0207 008 0192 or 0207 008 0169 for more information on this.

If you have dual nationality and are imprisoned in the country of your other nationality the British Consul cannot assist you formally, under international law. However, Consular staff will provide whatever informal assistance the local authorities will allow. Your relatives and friends can contact the above address for advice from the FCO in London.

Would I have a criminal record in the UK?

If you are detained in Panama and go to prison for *drug offences*, the FCO will notify SOCA (Serious & Organised Crime Agency). Regardless of whether you serve your sentence in the UK or in Panama, you will have criminal records in the UK.

THE PANAMANIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Is the system the same as in the UK?

In short, no, although on the face of it there are many similarities. For example, prisoners are presumed innocent until proven guilty; they have a right to a legal representative, an interpreter, fair trial and appeal. However there are fundamental differences. For example, there is no jury system and judicial processes are not always correctly followed. In addition, the Panamanian judicial system has been through a very difficult period recently and as a result it is extremely hard to achieve anything quickly. On the whole the Panamanian judicial system is very bureaucratic.

Remember, **you should never sign anything you cannot read**. If you find yourself under pressure to sign, ask to speak to the British Embassy.

What happens when I am arrested?

Panama

If you are arrested at the airport you will initially spend some time in a police cell near the airport. Police should read the charges and your rights. Whilst you are there police will usually **gather evidence and interrogate you**. You will be taken from the airport to cells in the Anti Narcotics Police Station, in Ancon, where a state prosecutor will start the first phase of investigation.

Although the law states that you are allowed to immediately appoint a lawyer and interpreter, in the case of drug offences, this will only be permitted shortly before giving your statement. **You have the right to remain in silent until you get a lawyer** and proper legal guidance. You should also ask for some time and privacy to speak alone with your lawyer (or public defender) to brief him on the circumstances of your arrest before you give your initial **statement or deposition before the Prosecutor**. **You will then be placed on remand**.

You will usually remain in the police anti narcotics cell for at least 4 days. Under Panamanian law you should be taken straight to the remand prison once the Judge has submitted a detention order. However, in reality there is no limit on the length of time you can be held in police cells, as this depends on space availability in the remand prison.

In both places, you will share a cell with possibly several people. You may have access to your belongings, but this depends on whether the police consider them as evidence. If considered as evidence you will not be allowed to keep your possessions. In principle, all seized belongings will be listed in the detention report. Your passport and other identification will be taken away. These can be difficult to retrieve afterwards, although we will try and get them back, since your passport is officially property of the British Government.

In some instances you will not give a statement until you are moved from the police station. It all very much depends on the availability of judges, lawyers and interpreters, and the speed at which the police investigate your case. According to Panamanian law, a detainee can be interrogated without having the assistance of a private or public lawyer. The police will arrange a public hearing before the judge and prosecutor within 24 hours of your detention (this depends on availability, it could take longer).

How is the Local Prison System?

- The Women's Prison is called "Centro Femenino de Rehabilitación" and the Male's prisons are "Centro La Joya", "Centro La Joyita" and "Centro El Renacer".
- Prisoners can use public phones to call family and friends. Incoming calls can be received once a week. The mail system in Panama is good. Your family can send mail to the British Embassy at the following address:

C/o "your name"
P.O Box 0816-07946
Panama City, Panama

- The prison system for work facilities is more for local prisoners.
- Women have to wear white T-shirt and blue skirt/or pants
- Men have to wear blue T-shirt and dark pants.
- Conditions in La Joya and La Joyita are very poor, El Renacer Prison is slightly better. The women's prison has better conditions.
- Fruits such as bananas, apples, grapes, raisins and certain liquids are prohibited.
- All prisons have medical staff, who can be contacted for any treatment. If the doctor considers that the prisoner needs a special treatment outside the prison, then a permission service is needed.
- Pornographic material is prohibited.
- Any other special request from a prisoner needs permission from the local prison service.

How does the legal system work?

- In criminal cases, you are entitled to have access to a lawyer. You are entitled to have a lawyer when questioned by the police (normally used in more serious criminal offences). Legal representation in Panama by a Court appointed lawyer is free for the duration of the case. If the legal representation offered to you is inadequate for whatever reason, you may change your lawyer without any cost.
- Following arrest and detention it can take up to a year and sometimes more for case hearing.
- Time spent in custody is deductible from the final sentence.
- Once the final sentence is given, the prisoner can apply to be transferred back to the United Kingdom. Under the terms of the Transfer of Sentenced Personas Treaty signed by both governments.
- Prisoners cannot be transferred until the final sentence is given.
- There is no Bail/parole granted in Panama.

What kind of legal assistance is available?

Consular staff cannot give legal advice, but they can provide you with a list of lawyers. You can hire a lawyer for yourself at any time after your arrest; a list of lawyers for Panama is included in this information pack. Normally, if you hire a private lawyer she/he will ask for a cash advance on his/her estimated legal fees before she/he will take your case on. The British Embassy cannot pay legal fees or guarantee to a lawyer that you will pay them.

If you cannot afford a private lawyer you can apply at any time for a public defender. The Court must appoint a Legal Aid/Pro Bono Lawyer (Defensor Público) if you do not have funds to hire a private lawyer and you are charged with a felony.

As in any country, some lawyers are better than others (paying a large fee does not guarantee that you will get a good lawyer). Once a lawyer is identified, ensure to get his/her full name and a business card. If you do decide to pay for a lawyer, it is wise to agree a flat fee for the whole case before they begin work or you may find yourself facing 'extra expenses'. Make sure also to get a receipt of any payment and a commitment to keep you informed about the stage of your case, by providing you with copies of the judicial process.

What happens at the trial?

There is no jury system in Panama. Trials are heard by the judge, the court (usually made up of three legal representatives), the secretary of the tribunal (court), the prosecutor, the lawyer, the accused, and the translator/interpreter. It is compulsory that all of the above are present at the court hearing, otherwise it will be delayed.

All documents related to a case and further evidence must be submitted to the president of the court. The trial will be heard in Spanish. The Court is responsible for arranging the appointment of an interpreter. Consular staff cannot act as interpreters.

Sentences

After the court hearing, a sentence is given by the secretary of the court. For all drugs trafficking and possession offences, a sentence must be reviewed by the Provincial Court of Justice. This is still a slow phase which could take at least 2 months.

- The Law on Narcotics, states that drug international Drug trafficking and possession offences, attract a sentence of 8-10 years.

How can appeals be made?

The accused has the right to appeal their sentence to the Provincial Court of Justice through their lawyers. However, the appeal process is very slow and can lead to delays in finalising a sentence. There is a further appeal revision ("revision") before the National Court which can be just as slow.

Is transfer to another prison within Panama possible?

Yes, if the Panamanian Prison Service (Dirección del Sistema Penitenciario) and local prison directors authorise the transfer. If you have been convicted you will be allocated to a prison to serve your sentence. Transfers to other prisons are only permitted when there are exceptional compassionate, medical or safety reasons for doing so. Prison authorities are reluctant to transfer prisoners who want to escape debts incurred in a prison. If you are interested in a transfer, please speak to the Embassy who can raise your request in writing with the prison authorities.

Is transfer to the UK a possibility?

Yes, if all parties agree. Panama ratified the Strasbourg Convention under which transfers are possible to the UK. The convention came into force on 1 November 2005. A prisoner should submit a written petition for transfer (translated into Spanish). Transfers can only take place if prisoners have a "final and enforceable sentence", support from the relevant authorities in Panama and the UK.

What are the procedures for release and deportation?

Once the release warrant has been issued by the relevant Criminal Court, the Director of the Prison submits the order to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for deportation. In theory, prisoners are not allowed to stay in Panama after release. However, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should arrange a hearing in order to authorise or refuse a request for deportation. At this stage, the prisoner (and/or lawyer) could present a bid to remain in Panama, usually on humanitarian grounds (if family involved).

Prisoners should have a passport and air ticket before arranging deportation. If the above documents are not available, the criminal court will submit a remand detention order until the detainee gets all required documents to leave the country.

PRISON CONDITIONS / SERVICES

In this chapter you will find information on daily life in a Panamanian jail. Prisoners say that nothing is guaranteed as things can change on a whim, so the advice of more experienced prisoners, plus your own common sense, is essential.

General prison conditions

There are about 10 prisons in Panama City with a capacity for 3,000 prisoners each. However, in reality there are almost 13,000 prisoners and over-crowding is still a major problem. The main cause of overcrowding is the high rate of pre-trial detention and the lengthy delays in completing the judicial process. The government is planning to reform the judicial system again, as well as the prison system for an effective rehabilitation.

The number of inmates to each cell entirely depends on the size of the cell and the number of prisoners in the particular prison. Women's prisons are separate to the men's. Each cell has a toilet and wash basin. Showers are mostly separate and shared. Hot water is rarely supplied, unless you arrange for a heater to be installed. However, some prisons already have this facility in place.

Clothes washing is possible at large outside sinks in the "patio". Clothes lines are also available in the patio.

Even though permanent searches to confiscate weapons are carried out, the latter are in free circulation inside prisons. Extortion is a big problem, especially against foreign prisoners. Corruption is still perceivable at any level: either legal or penitentiary.

If you experience serious harassment, threats or violence you should report this to the Embassy as soon as possible. We are able to take up allegations of mistreatment against a British national with the prison authorities. However, we will only raise concerns if you request that we do so.

What about money?

In Panamanian prisons you may need to pay for everything. However, we strongly advise prisoners not to make it evident if they have access to regular funds (keep cash deliveries to a minimum, always make them through the Embassy, advice visitors/family not to send/deliver expensive gifts or large parcels). Foreign prisoners are usually considered to be rich; as a result they are sometimes targeted by gangs within the prison and are therefore likely to be victims of theft and extortion. Incurring debts inside the prison, especially for drugs, is not advised. Daily interest rates on debts are usually extremely high.

Prisoners Abroad can help prisoners who have no other financial support, by sending a monthly grant via the Embassy for the purchase of food and other essentials. Let the Embassy know if you need this support, or write directly to the Prisoners Abroad caseworker for Panama.

Drugs

Despite the local authorities' efforts, drugs are still freely available within Panamanian prisons. Do everything you can to find other ways to cope with life in prison and avoid consuming drugs. Not only will drug consumption weaken further your state of health, but drug taking invariably results in the creation of personal debts. These debts will attract accelerated rates of interest and if not paid off, could result in serious verbal and physical harassment.

Can I work in prison?

There is little in the way of official employment, certainly for those who do not speak Spanish. In addition, due to long waiting lists (and the need for good connections), there are minimal opportunities to get jobs in the kitchen or the carpentry workshop, which are the most popular options in the male prison. Other alternatives are performing cleaning duties or working as food distributors. These jobs not always paid. Some voluntary work can be found (i.e at the carpentry workshop - you can sell what you make, but you would need to invest in the materials and tools yourself). Some activity initiatives are run by the prisoners themselves.

Can I receive medical and dental treatment?

If you need medical or dental treatment you should ask to see the prison doctor or dentist. There is an appointment list and pass system. Depending on number of patients, prisoners can either be assisted the same day or within a few days. Basic medical attention is free of charge. Most prisons have only few doctors and very often medicine is not available. It is unlikely that you will be treated by a doctor who speaks English.

If medicine is not available at the prison, you or the prison doctor should contact the Embassy. The cost of prescribed medication has to be covered either by the prisoner or, if a prisoner qualifies, through Prisoners Abroad's medical fund.

Prison doctors are often the equivalent of GPs in the UK, so unusual or complex problems may be referred to a specialist outside the prison –public hospitals-. Such treatment is often not free. Making an appointment with the public hospital and arranging a security escort can be very bureaucratic. If you face problems arranging a visit with a specialist, you should contact the Embassy to see if they can assist with the process.

If you have a long-standing medical problem and have received treatment for it in the UK, it may be useful if you have your medical records, or at least a report, sent from your doctor in the UK. Your UK doctor can send the report, via the Embassy, addressed to you.

If you suffer from a serious illness or need regular medication and tests, the prison doctor and social worker can arrange a medical appointment at the public hospital. However, there is often lack of coordination between the prison's doctor and social worker. You should also contact the Embassy as hospital transfer permits can be prolonged without the Embassy's follow up assistance.

Food and Diet

There is a provision of food within the prison. Prison food is free but may not be sufficient to fulfil your dietary needs. You would need funds to pay for supplements to your diet, which can be bought at from the prison shop (run by other inmates as a source of income), or from the cafeteria and restaurant (open on visiting days).

Approximate prices (US\$) of basic products are as follows:

Bread	(loaf 1.50 / 0.15-0.30cents per piece)
Coke (fizzy drinks)	(0.50 cents per piece / 1.50 litre)
Tea	(0.10-0.20 per bag 8 bags for 0.75 / 0.25 prepared cup)
Coffee	(0.25 per cup / with milk 0.30 / pack 85 grams 2.00 – 170 grams 4.00)
Water	(0.50-0.60 bottle / 1.50-2.00 litre)
Rice	(0.45-0.50 per pound)
Sugar	(0.50-0.75 per pound)
Tuna	(1.50-1.80 per tin)
Meat	(2.00-2.50 per pound)
Milk	(0.80 ½ litre bag / 1.60 litre) powdered sachet 3.20
Crisps	(0.50-0.60)
Chocolate bar	(0.85-1.30)
Potatoes	(0.50 per pound)
Fruit (bananas)	(0.15 per piece) (1.00 for 5 apples / 1.00 for 10 bananas)
Vegetables	(0.15-0.50 per piece)
Cooking gas	(4.50-5.00 for refill / 35-40 for new bottle)
Blanket	(5.00)
Mattress	(10-100)
Clothes washing	(1.00-1.50 for 10 items)

If products are not found in the prison shop, prisoners can request them from outside at greater expense and they are usually asked to pay a commission to the person who purchases the food for them (US\$1.00-2.00).

Mail/Parcels

Friends and family can send mail and parcels to the Embassy and we deliver to the prison. The Embassy is not able to forward mail on your behalf back to the UK. All letters are opened and checked by prison staff before they are given to prisoners. Mail cannot be sent directly to the prison from the UK since there is no postal system in the prison.

Can I have a radio, CD player, cassette player and television?

Yes, if prisoners can afford them and through the prison director's clearance. But having expensive items in your cell may attract unwanted attention from other inmates, unless you are in one of the best wings of the prison. In addition, guards have been known to request a small payment to allow prisoners to have such items in their cells.

Can I make telephone calls?

This depends on the prison. There are usually public telephones inside prisons which inmates can use with telephone cards, provided that they have enough resources to pay for these services. It is not possible to receive calls.

What is there to read?

Most prisons have some English books and other reading materials in their library. British citizens living locally, tourists, the Embassy and Prisoners Abroad make donations of English language books/magazines to prisoners.

Leisure and entertainment

Learning the language: Speaking Spanish will help you understand what is going on, communicate your needs and also ease the boredom and mental isolation of prison life. If you have the funds to pay for learning materials the Embassy can help you buy them. Otherwise, the Embassy can provide you with photocopies of a Spanish self-learning book. Most prisons have a gym, but often they are not properly equipped. In the "patio" or on the exercise yard, prisoners play sport such as football, volleyball, tennis and basketball. In the women's prison aerobic is very popular.

Visits**Consular visits**

We hope to visit you every 3 months. You will be called to the prison administration offices during a consular visit. You can also contact us by telephone.

Visits by family, or friends

You may be allowed visits if there are special or compassionate reasons (for example, distance). Visitors enter into the prison itself and prisoners can spend time with visitors in the patio or in their cells.

Visitors must identify themselves when they arrive at the prison by showing an identification document containing a photograph (e.g. passport). This is held by the prison and returned at the end of the visit. Visitors will be searched before entering the prison.

Other types of visitor

Priests and representatives from local church groups or non-government organisations visit the prisons.

What can a visitor bring?

Visitors can bring 'prison comforts'. All bags and parcels will be searched before entry and the authorities have the right to withhold items they deem to be unacceptable (see below).

What can the Embassy buy for you and what is allowed in prison?

We may be able to buy things for you if they are essential for your welfare and you cannot find them in prison.

- The prison authorities do not allow a number of items into the prison, even though you may have seen them for sale inside the prison. We will therefore not be able to bring them to prison for you.

The following items are not allowed into prison:

Razors, knives, scissors, sharp objects, computers, laptops, drugs, guns, tobacco, cigarettes, alcohol, cans, grapes, apples, pineapples, glass, metallic items, black long-sleeve shirts with turtle necks, caps, sun glasses, porn magazines/materials, mobile phones and mobile phone cards.

This list has been prepared with information provided by different prisons and may be incomplete. So there may be further items which are not permitted. We will advise of these as we become aware.

- Also, we will not buy non-essential items such as chocolates, ingredients you may need to prepare food in prison and materials for workshops.
- If you cannot find something in prison and you would like us to buy it for you, we will buy it at our discretion and only if it is essential for your welfare, ie. toiletries, tampons, vitamins, certain food essential for your welfare in case of illness and which is not available in prison. The cost will be deducted from your funds. The Embassy will not cover the cost or exchange items, even if you are not entirely happy with the item or brand bought so please be as specific as you can. We may also have to buy the brand available.
- If you would like us to buy clothes and shoes for you, we will consider this if you cannot find them in prison at a reasonable price.
- We take no responsibility for what may happen to the item after we have supplied it to you (loss in prison) nor do we take any responsibility if an item is confiscated in prison on our arrival. The Embassy will not lobby with the prison authorities to allow entry of an item bought for you that they don't consider safe enough to allow entry, even if previous permission has been given to you. We cannot intervene on your behalf, so you would have to raise this with the authorities directly.

If you have any doubts about the things you would like us to buy for you, please do not hesitate to ask a Consular Officer or a prison officer.

TRANSFERS TO THE UK

Why should you transfer?

You would be able to serve the rest of your sentence closer to your family and friends. You would also be in an English speaking environment, and be able to take advantage of the courses available in British prisons aimed at preparing you for release.

How are transfers arranged?

The UK Government has signed international agreements that allow British prisoners to be transferred from certain countries to the UK.

Information from Britain

- HMPS to arrange the escort and collection of prisoners.
- 6 HMPS staff that act as escorts. 2 escorts are required per prisoner. It is not possible for more than one prisoner to be transferred at a time.
- HMPS make the arrangements and cover the cost of flights. However, the prisoner is required to sign a UTR (undertaking to repay). Your passport will be retained until repayment is made.

Location following repatriation

- All men will be taken to Wandsworth Prison, in London. They will remain there for a period of assessment and will then be allocated to a suitable prison in which to serve the remainder of their sentence. Prisoners will be allocated a security category and may progress through the system to open condition. However, not every prisoner will be suitable for open condition.
- All women to be transferred to Holloway Prison, in London, before onward allocation.

How long will you serve on your return?

The British authorities will continue to enforce the sentence imposed on you by the foreign court. The British authorities cannot increase the sentence that has been imposed on you. However, the release arrangements of the country where you are imprisoned will cease to apply once you have been transferred. British release arrangements will apply instead. Each country has its own release arrangements; as it stands in Panama your release date in the UK would normally be before your release in Panama. You can be provided with detailed information about the calculation of your release dates in the UK before you are required to give your consent to transfer. You should ensure that you fully understand the consequences of your transfer before you give your consent. If you are unsure you should ask for clarification.

Can you appeal your conviction and sentence through the British Courts?

No. This remains a matter for the courts in Panama, where you were sentenced. The British courts have no jurisdiction to review either your conviction or your sentence.

As a British Citizen, can the UK authorities refuse your transfer request?

The British authorities will normally approve the request of British citizens. However, the UK authorities reserve the right to refuse your request.

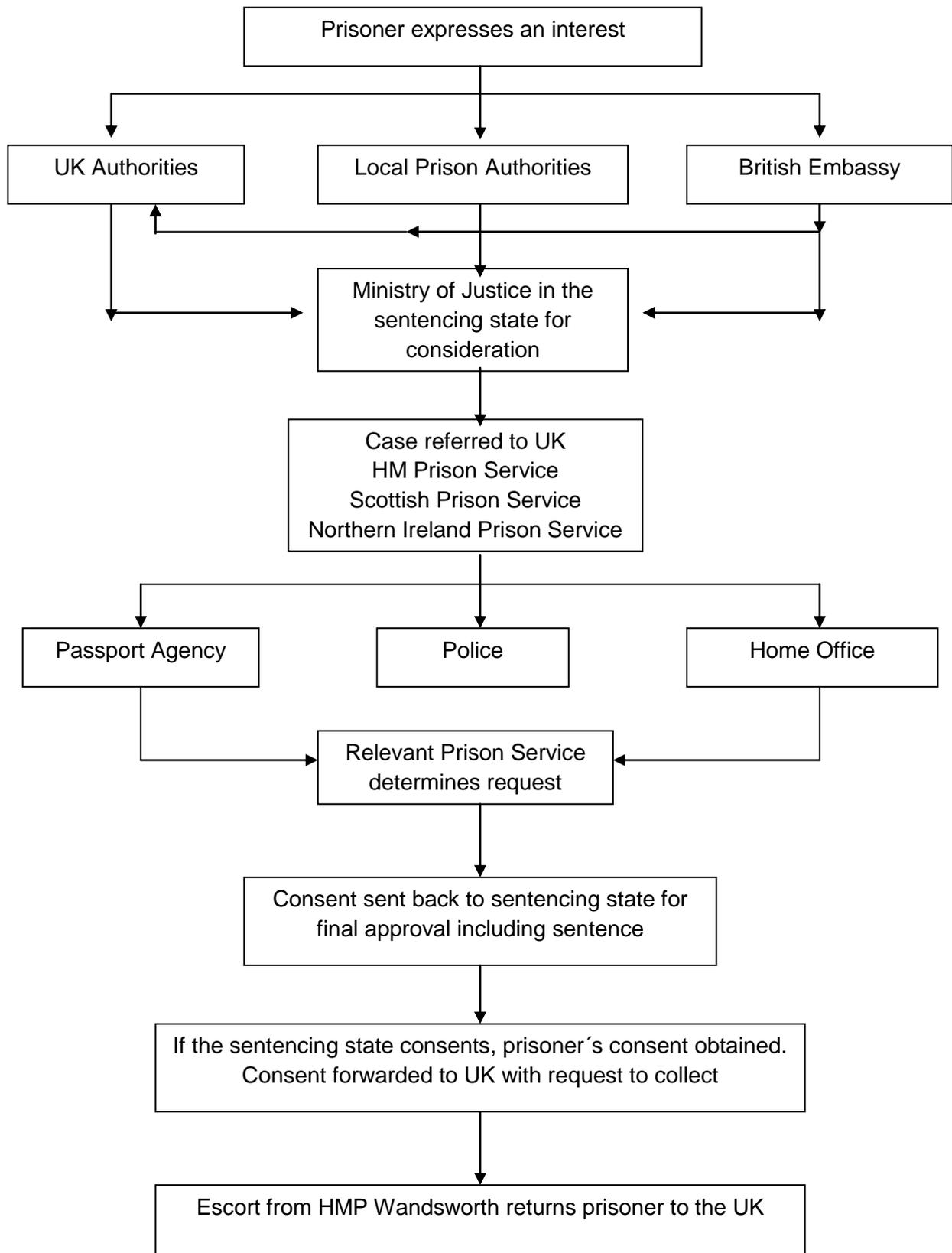
Will you be liable to prosecution for other offences if you return?

You cannot be prosecuted in the UK for the offence for which you are sentenced. You will however, be liable to detention or prosecution in connection with any other alleged offence committed in the UK.

Will you have a criminal record in the UK even though your offence was committed in another country?

Whether you return to the UK as a serving prisoner, or at the end of your sentence, you will have a criminal record. The law requires that in certain circumstances you must disclose your previous criminal convictions. This includes those imposed abroad and/or in the UK. Failure to give full disclosure of your criminal convictions when required by law to do so is a criminal offence. You should be aware that if you are arrested for certain serious offences, such as child sex abuse or drugs crimes, consular staff must tell other relevant UK authorities.

Repatriation of Prisoners to England and Wales



PRISONERS ABROAD

For more than 30 years the charity Prisoners Abroad (PA) has offered practical support and advice to Britons imprisoned overseas. It is the only UK charity providing this service and it is available to all. PA is concerned with your health and welfare, both during your imprisonment and also on your return to the UK, through their resettlement service (if you have registered whilst in prison). They can also provide support and advice to your family during your imprisonment, if you wish. In order to access any PA services, prisoners must first register with PA by signing and returning their authorisation form.

Once you seek help from PA, the Prisoner & Family Support Service will be your point of contact for advice and information. The type of assistance they can offer will vary from country to country, but generally they can provide you with information, in English, on:

- the criminal justice system of the country
- prison conditions and your rights as a prisoner
- obtaining magazines, newspapers, books
- finding a pen pal
- the language of your country of imprisonment
- translation of documents
- providing a grant for essential medicines and toiletries

Prisoners Abroad

89 – 93 Fonthill Road
London N4 3JH
England

Telephone: 00 44 (0)20 7561 6820
(Mondays to Fridays 9.30 am to 5.30 pm)

Email: info@prisonersabroad.org.uk

Website: www.prisonersabroad.org.uk

For further details, refers to attachments
(3 pages – general leaflet & authorisation forms)

ANNEXES

Annex 1: LIST OF ENGLISH SPEAKING LAWYERS IN PANAMA

Panama (attachment)

Annex 2: LIST OF TRANSLATORS/INTERPRETERS IN PANAMA

Panama (attachment)

THESE LISTS ARE PROVIDED BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY PANAMA FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF ENQUIRERS, BUT NEITHER HMG NOR ANY OFFICIAL OF THE CONSULATE CAN TAKE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMPETENCE OR PROBITY OF ANY LAW / TRANSLATOR FIRMS ON THESE LISTS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A	
Abrogation	Derogación
Access to file (by Lawyer)	Acceso al expediente
Accomplice	Cómplice
Accused (with charges)	Imputado
Acquitted	Absuelto
Adjudication	Fallo / sentencia
Administration of justice	Administración de Justicia
Amnesty	Amnistía
Anti Narcotics Police Station	Jefatura de Antinarcoóticos
Appeal	Apelación
Appeal - trial court decision is appealed directly to the National Court, by "jumping" over the intermediate court of appeals.	Casación
Appeal for error	Apelar por error
Appeal or complaint	Apelación o queja
Application	Aplicación
Application forms (prison)	Formulario de aplicación
Army	Ejército
Assessment of evidence	Evaluación de pruebas y evidencias (pruebas materiales, testimoniales y documentales)
Attorney General's Office	Fiscalía General del Estado
B	
Blood test	Exámen de sangre
Board of prison governors	Comité
C	
Cell	Celda
Charge	Acusación / alegato
Chief Prosecutor	Fiscal General
Civil party in criminal trial	Parte civil en juicio penal
Clemency / pardon	Indulto
Complaints system	Sistema de denuncias / demandas
Completed file	Expediente completo
Compulsory prosecution	Enjuiciamiento obligatorio
Consent	Consentimiento
Convicted	Condenado / sentenciado
Conviction	Condena / sentencia
Corporal	Cabo / corporal
Country ban (order issued which prohibits a person who has been deported or expelled from returning)	Prohibición de regresar al país (orden de arraigo)
Court appearance	Comparecencia ante el tribunal
Court file reference	Referencia del expediente del juicio
Courthouse	Tribunal / Juzgado
Criminal code	Código de Procedimiento Penal
Criminal code procedure	Código de Ejecución de penas y rehabilitación social
Criminal Court	Tribunal de Garantías Penales

Criminal prosecution	Enjuiciamiento penal
Criminal record	Record policial
Custody hearing	Audiencia preliminar
Custody order	Orden de prisión preventiva
D	
Danger of absconding	Peligro de fugarse
Danger of interfering with the course of justice	Peligro de interferir con el procedimiento de justicia / procedimiento legal
Danger of repeated criminal offences	Riesgo de reincidencia
Deportation	Deportación
Deportation order	Orden de deportación
Dismiss charges	Descargar / descartar cargos o acusación
Duty of obedience	Deber de obediencia
E	
Early release benefit	Pre-libertad
Panamanian Prison Service	Dirección del Sistema Penitenciario
Escort	Escortar / escolta
Expert Witness	Testigo
Expulsion	Expulsión
Extradition	Extradición
F	
Federal Police	Policía Nacional
Fever	Fiebre
File	Expediente
Final public trial	Juicio (público)
Food poisoning	Intoxicación estomacal
G	
Greater Criminal Court	Corte Nacional de Justicia
Guarding (a prison)	Custodia en la prisión
Guilty	Culpable
H	
Hand cuffed	Esposado
Hearing (first)	Primera audiencia
High Court	Corte Provincial de Justicia
Higher Regional Court	Corte Provincial de Justicia (superior)
Human rights	Derechos humanos
Hunger strike	Huelga de hambre
I	
Imprisoned	Detenido / encarcelado / recluso
Imprisonment	Detención / encarcelamiento / reclusión
Imprisonment after conviction	Encarcelamiento después de ser sentenciado / condenado
Indictment	Denuncia / acusación / proceso
Insubordination to officer	Desobediencia a la autoridad / insubordinación
Interpreter	Intérprete
Investigation	Investigación / Indagación
J	
Jeopardise	Poner en peligro
Judge	Juez
Judgement	Sentencia / juzgamiento / dictámen
Judgement Final and enforceable	Sentencia en firme y ejecutoriada
Judicial Police	Policía Judicial

Jurisdiction (Criminal) Entities	Órganos de la Jurisdicción Penal: Corte Nacional de Justicia (CNJ)/ Salas Especializadas de lo Penal de la CNJ / Corte Provincial de Justicia / Jueces de Garantías Penales / Tribunal de Garantías Penales.
Juvenile prison	Cárcel de menores
L	
Lawyer	Abogado
Lawyers' charges	Honorarios del abogado
Lay Judges	Disponer los jueces
Lay Judges Court	Disponer los jueces del tribunal
Legal Aid / Pro Bono Lawyer	Defensor Público
Legal Clerk	Empleado jurídico / legal
Legal remedy	Recurso legal
Local prison rules	Reglas carcelarias
Local State Court	Tribunal Penal
M	
Major offence	Delito mayor
Malnutrition	Desnutrición
Marital Visit	Visita conyugal
Minimal (guilt)	Culpabilidad mínima
Ministry of Justice (and Human Rights)	Ministerio de Justicia (y Derechos Humanos)
Minor offence	Delito mínimo
Misdemeanour	Falta / mala conducta
Mistreatment/ Torture	Maltrato / tortura
Money earned in prison	Dinero ganado en prisión
N	
Notary	Notaría
O	
Officer of the Court	Funcionario de la Corte/Juzgado
Opposition	Oposición
Out-of-court settlement	Resolución
P	
Parole (conditional release)	Libertad condicional
Pardon	Indulto
Pay off debts	Pagar deudas
Penal order	Reglamento penal
Penal proceeding	Trámite/procedimiento penal
Penitentiary system	Sistema penitenciario / carcelario
Permanent (indefinite) detention	Detención en firme
Permit, entitlement	Permiso / calificado / acreditado
Personal money in prison	Dinero personal
Physical examination	Exámen físico
Plaintiff	Demandante
Police Headquarters	Intendencia General de Policía
Police Officer	Oficial de Policía
Power of Attorney	Poder legal
Preliminary detention	Aprehensión
Presiding Judge	Juez dirigente
Presumption of innocence	Se presume inocente
Preventive detention	Prisión preventiva
Prison	Prisión / cárcel / centro carcelario
Prison administration	Administración carcelaria

Prison Assessment Unit	Departamento de Diagnóstico y Evaluación
Prison court	Comitiva de la prisión
Prison Director	Director de la prisión / centro de rehabilitación social
Prison house rules	Reglamento interno de la prisión
Prison rules regarding supervised visit	Reglas de la prisión referente a las visitas supervisadas
Prison Guard	Guía/guardia penitenciario / guardia carcelario
Prison Warden	Jefe de guías
Prisoners	Presos / internos (inmates)
Private prosecution	Enjuiciamiento privado
Procedural complaint	Denuncia procesal
Proceedings	Proceso/tramite legal
Proof of evidence	Pruebas de evidencia
Prosecution	Enjuiciamiento/ procesamiento
Prosecutor (Public)	Fiscal
Provision	Suministro
Public Prosecutor's Office	Fiscalía
Punishment cell	Celda de castigo (calabozo)
R	
Raids	Requisas
Register (in State)	Registro / matrícula
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitación
Release	Salir en libertad
Release order	Boleta de libertad / boleta de excarcelación
Remand (sending a person accused of an offence into custody to await trial)	Detención provisional
Remand prison	CDP (centro de detención provisional)
Remedy of appeal	Recurso de apelación
Remission	Perdón / absolución
Repatriation	Repatriación / traslado
Representative of the Local Authority	Representante de la autoridad local
Riot	Motín / disturbio / alboroto
Riot squad	Grupo de amotinamiento
Roll call	Tomar lista (in the morning and at night)
S	
Security	Seguridad
Small Police Station	Jefatura de policía
Social Worker	Trabajador(a) Social
State officials including prison Warders	Trabajadores públicos, incluyendo guardias / guías penitenciarios
Statute of Judicial Organisation	Estatuto / Decreto / Reglamento de una organización judicial / legal
Stomach bugs	Infección estomacal
Strike	Huelga / paro
Sufficient suspicion	Suficientes pruebas (fundamentos de imputación)
Supreme Court of Justice	Corte Nacional de Justicia
Surety (money required for a remand prisoner to be released on bail)	Fianza
Suspended sentence	Sentencia suspendida
T	

Temporary detention	Detención temporal
The accused	El Acusado
To buy	Comprar
To change money	Cambiar dinero
To deport	Deportar
To file an application	Archivar el expediente
Transfer Agreement (Strasbourg Convention)	“Convenio de Traslado de Personas Condenadas” - Convención de Estrasburgo (repatriación)
Transfer to another prison	Traslado a otra prisión
Treason	Alta traición
V	
Valid or legal	Válido o legal
Visit permit	Permiso para visita
W	
Warden	Guardia (guía)
Wing	Pabellón

Spanish Alphabet

Sounds Like

A,a	A
B,b	Be
C,c	Ce
D,d	De
E,e	E
F,f	Efe
G,g	Ge
H,h	Ache
I,i	I
J,j	Jota
K,k	Ka
L,l	Ele
M,m	Eme
N,n	Ene
O,o	O
P,p	Pe
Q,q	Qu
R,r	Ere
S,s	Ese
T,t	Te
U,u	U
V,v	Ve
W,Y	Doble Ve, Ye
X,x	Equis
Z,z	Zeta

Useful words

1	Uno
2	Dos
3	Tres
4	Cuatro
5	Cinco
6	Seis
7	Siete
8	Ocho
9	Nueve
10	Diez
11	Once
12	Doce
13	Trece
14	Catorce
15	Quince
16	Dieciseis
17	Diecisiete
18	Dieciocho
19	Diecinueve
20	Veinte
30	Treinta
40	Cuarenta
50	Cincuenta
60	Sesenta
70	Setenta
80	Ochenta
90	Noventa
100	Cien
1000	Mil

Food	Comida	
Apple	Manzana	
Banana	Banana	Plátano/ Guineo
Beans	Fréjol	
Biscuits	Galletas	
Bread	Pan	
Cake	Pastel	
Chicken	Pollo	
Coffee	Café	
Drink	Beber- Tomar	
Eat	Comer	
Egg	Huevo	
Fruit	Fruta	
Hungry	Ambriento	

Juice	Jugo	
Meat	Carne	
Milk	Leche	
Omlette	Revuelto	
Pancake	Pancake	
Rice	Arroz	
Sausage	Salchicha	
Sugar	Azúcar	
Sweet	Dulce/ caramelo	
Vegetables	Vegetales	
Water	Agua	
Cutlery	Cubiertos	
Cup	Taza	
Fork	Tenedor	
Knife	Cuchillo	
Plate	Plato	
Spoon	Cuchara	
Good Morning	Buenos días	
Good Afternoon	Buenas tardes	
Good Night	Buenas noches	
Day	Día	
Week	Semana	
Month	Mes	
Monthly	Mensual	
Year	Año	
Today	Hoy	
Tomorrow	Mañana	
Tonight	Esta noche	
Days of the Week	Días de la Semana	
Sunday	Domingo	
Monday	Lunes	
Tuesday	Martes	
Wednesday	Miércoles	
Thursday	Jueves	
Friday	Viernes	
Saturday	Sábado	
Seasons	Estaciones	
Spring	Primavera	
Summer	Verano	
Autumn	Otoño	
Winter	Invierno	

Months	Meses	
January	Enero	
Febrero	Febrero	
Marzo	Marzo	
Abril	Abril	
Mayo	Mayo	
Junio	Junio	
Julio	Julio	
Agosto	Agosto	
Septiembre	Septiembre	
Octubre	Octubre	
Noviembre	Noviembre	
Diciembre	Diciembre	
Baby	Bebé	
Boy	Niño	
Child	Muchacho	Chico
Father	Papá	
Girl	Niña	
Husband	Esposo	
Man	Hombre	
Money	Dinero	Plata
Mother	Mamá	
Wife	Esposa	
Woman	Mujer	
He	El	
I	Yo	
Me	Yo	
My	Mio	
Yours	Tuyo, vuestro	
Her	De ella	
His	De él	
Their	De ellos	
Them	Ellos	
You	Tú	
Yours	Tuyo , vuestro	
Borrow	Pedir prestado	
Close	Cerrar	
Closed	Cerrado	
Come	Venir	
Debt	Deuda	
Door	Puerta	
Give	Dar	

Here	Aqui	
Indoors	Dentro de Casa	
Inside	Dentro	
Open	Abrir	
Outside	Afuera, exterior	
Run	Correr	
Stand	Posición, puesto	
Stay	Quedarse	
Stop	Detenerse	Pare
Turn	Vuelta	
Walk	Caminar	
Parts of the body	Partes del cuerpo	
Head	Cabeza	
Hair	Cabello	Pelo
Eye	Ojo	
Eyes	Ojos	
Eyeball	Globo Ocular	
Eyebrow	Ceja	
Eyelash	Pestaña	
Eyelid	Párpado	
Nose	Nariz	
Nostril	Fosa nasal	
Ear	Oido	Oreja
Hearing	Escuchando	
Mouth	Boca	
First	Primero	
Second	Segundo	
Third	Tercero	
Fourth	Cuarto	
Fifth	Quinto	
Sixth	Sexto	
Seventh	Séptimo	
Eight	Octavo	
Ninth	Noveno	
Tenth	Décimo	
Half	Mitad	Medio
In half	En la mitad	
After	Después	
Before	Antes	
Later	Luego	Más tarde
Now	Ahora	

Climate/Weather	Clima	
Climate	Clima	
Cold	Frio	
Heat	Calor	
Hot	Caliente	
Rain	Lluvia	
Shade	Sombra	
Sun	Sol	
Sunshine	Luz solar	
Weather	Tiempo	
Wind	Viento	
Briefs	Ropa interior	
Clothes	Ropa	
Pullover	Chompa	Suéter
Shirt	Camisa	
Shorts	Bermuda	Shorts
Socks	Medias	Calcetines
Trousers	Pantalones	
"T" Shirt	Camiseta	
Sandals	Sandalias	Chanclas / chancletas
Shoe	Zapato	
Trainers	Zapatillas	Tennis / Zapatos deportivos / Zapatos de caucho
Ashtray	Cenicero	
Book	Libro	
Cigarettes	Cigarrillos	Cigarros / Tabacos
Dry	Secar	
Lighter	Claro	Bien iluminado
Pen	Esfero	
Pencil	Lápiz	
Scissors	Tijeras	
Soap	Jabón	
Soap powder	Jabón en polvo	
Wash	Lavar	
Wash hand	Lavabo	Lava manos
Washing	Lavado	Lavando
Wet	Húmedo	
Bucket	Balde	
Scrubbing Brush	Escoba de Fregar	
Shower	Ducha	
Toothbrush	Cepillo de dientes	

Toothpaste	Pasta dental	Pasta de dientes / Dentífrico
Towel	Toalla	
Dream	Sueño	
Rest	Descanso	
Sleep	Dormir	
Sleepy	Cansado	Somnoliento
Wake	Despertarse	
Bed	Cama	
Bed Sheet	Sábana	
Blanket	Cobija	
Mattress	Colchón	
Pillow	Almohada	

**This booklet was compiled by the Consular Section, British Embassy Panama
It is revised on a regular basis.
If any of the information contained in this booklet is incorrect, please draw inaccuracies to
our attention so that we can make amendments.**

Thank you.

(September 2011)