

Dear Buddhadharma Sangha,

It is vital for the good standing of our group that volunteers understand that “friendly” communication with either transferred inmates or parolees **is prohibited** by the Department of Corrections. This prohibited activity absolutely includes facebook friending or contact on social media sites. The San Quentin administration emphasizes that parolees as such remain “wards of the State” and are still subject to the over-familiarity regulations that deal with volunteer-inmate relationships.

Dharma communication between Buddhist volunteers and transferred or paroled inmates can be a very important source of support and spiritual counseling and may assist inmates to continue their wholesome practice after leaving the San Quentin group. Such communication is **definitely not discouraged** but of course needs to be done in a professional and transparent way. Volunteers of the Buddhadharma Sangha enter the prison effectively as Buddhist chaplains, and the San Quentin administration does honor our professional services and appreciates that it may be appropriate to continue those ministerial relationships in the event of an inmate’s transfer or parole. If you intend to engage in such Dharma correspondence, it must be approved by Seido and communicated through him to the San Quentin administration.

Thank you.