



The Illinois Department of Corrections

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/15/2026

TO: All Individuals in Custody

FROM: Angela Locke, Chief of Operations

SUBJECT: Magic Gathering Cards

The Illinois Department of Corrections recognizes the mental-health and social benefits of Magic Gathering Cards and their positive contribution to a facility environment. To continue supporting the game while maintaining security and order, and efforts to reduce the introduction of contraband through the mail, IDOC has established the following policies regarding Magic Gathering Cards for all facilities.

1. Every individual in custody is allowed to have a **maximum of 500** Magic Gathering Cards at a time. Property Officers will maintain a running total of the number of Magic Gathering Cards in each individual's possession, but not a record of which specific cards.
2. An individual's Magic Gathering Cards must fit in their personal property box.
3. Magic Gathering Cards are only allowed if mailed to an individual directly by a commercial business. The cards mailed by a commercial business may include sealed packs of cards or individual cards.
4. If cards mailed to an individual bring the individual's total number of Magic Gathering Cards to 501 or higher, the excess cards will be confiscated, and a DOC 0410 (Notice and Course of Action for Excess Personal Property) form will be provided, notifying you of your options regarding the disposition of the excess cards. Your options are listed below.
 - Mail the excess cards out of the facility.
 - Have the cards picked up at the facility.
 - Have the cards destroyed.
 - File a grievance.
5. Magic card protective sleeves, cases, and accessories are not authorized.

Mission: To serve justice in Illinois and increase public safety by promoting positive change for those in custody, operating successful reentry programs, and reducing victimization.