



It's A Felony To Open Other People's Mail and Parcels

18 U.S. Code § 1702 states that, in the United States, mail and parcels are considered private property. Obstruction of correspondence is defined as opening or destroying mail or parcels addressed to someone other than yourself. Obstruction of correspondence is a felony punishable with a fine, imprisonment, or both.

Postal Palm Springs has a zero-tolerance policy regarding obstruction of correspondence, this policy is not isolated to USPS mail and parcels but includes any and all carriers. Mail and parcels received at Postal Palm Springs, whether carrier delivered, customer drop off, or customer shipped, are considered private property of the customer. Under no circumstance may anyone, other than the property owner, open any mail or parcel without direct permission from the customer and then only in the presence of the customer. The only exception is through our Virtual Mail platform where customer requests are tracked digitally and customers have previously agreed we may open their mail and parcels when directed by the customer, to do so.

In the event you have reason to believe a customer is sending something illegal or unsafe you must ask the customer if the package can be inspected, if the customer agrees you must open and inspect the parcel in the presence of the customer. If the customer is not willing to allow the inspection you must immediately contact management for assistance. In the event management is not available you must let the customer know we are unable to proceed with the transaction until we can be satisfied that the transaction is legal and safe.

Any violation of this policy will lead to disciplinary action, termination of employment and potential legal charges.

Signature

Date

Print Name