



# County Technical Assistance Service

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## Correspondence From State and Federal Courts

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Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS electronic library known as e-Li. This online library is maintained daily by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other e-Li material.

Sincerely,

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## Correspondence From State and Federal Courts

**Reference Number:** CTAS-1409

Correspondence from a state or federal court constitutes "legal mail" and cannot be opened outside the presence of a prisoner who has specifically requested otherwise. *Sallier*, 343 F.3d at 876-877. *See also Taylor v. Sterrett*, 532 F.2d 462, 475 (5th Cir.1976) (holding that an inmate's right of access to the courts requires that incoming prisoner mail from courts, attorneys, prosecuting attorneys, and probation or parole officers be opened only in the presence of the inmate)

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