

# The

# FORUM



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**Escapees Mail Service Newsletter**  
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## **Important Postal Rate Changes**

Last issue, we told you about the proposed rate changes for USPS postage. Since then, the final regulations changed a bit. Not only will the rate charged be based on weight, it will also be determined by the size and shape of the package. This has become an important issue for mail forwarders, as legally, we must repackage your mail with new postage in order to mail it to you.

Now, under the new rules, even the envelope we use to package your mail helps determine what price you pay. We've found that one envelope in particular we've used for years is causing a problem with postage rates. To correct this situation, we've trained our employees on the new size/shape rules. We've also rushed to find envelopes to correct the situation so our mail service members are not paying more than necessary for postage.

This is especially important to mail forwarding users as we receive many odd-shaped packages in our office. We've even received tires for our members! Under the new rates, it will be more cost-effective for you to have large packages sent directly to you when possible. Here is a sample of the new rates:

**First-class mail (one ounce): \$0.41**  
**Priority-mail flat rate envelopes: \$4.60**  
**Priority-mail flat rate boxes: \$8.95**

Be sure to pass this important information along to any friends who may use other mail-forwarding services. This important change affects anyone who sends mail through the United States Postal Service system. You can find information about the final rules on the USPS website: <http://www.usps.com/prices/>

## **Mail Preference Service Changes**

Many of you are aware of the Mail Preference Service, but you may not be aware of new changes regarding their service. The Mail Preference Service is an entity that will remove your name from junk mail lists so you can lower the amount of junk mail you receive. This is especially handy if you have a mail-forwarding service. You don't want to pay postage for junk mail unless it's something you really want. We've long been a fan of the service, and we even send Mail Preference postcards biannually so members can continue to keep their names off junk lists.

We recently found that the Mail Preference Service has changed its mailing address and is now charging a fee for this service (previously it was free). The fee is \$1.00 per name you wish to remove from the national mailing lists. You can register online <http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailing> or mail in the form along with payment. Even though the service isn't free any longer, it's still the easiest way we've found to prevent being bombarded by junk mail. Plus, with the increase in postage rates, the \$1.00 fee balances out in the long run.

**Don't forget: Back issues of this newsletter can be found on our website, [www.escapees.com](http://www.escapees.com).**

**Medications**

The last issue of *The Forum* caused some confusion that we'd like to clear up about our acceptance of medications. Escapees Mail Service has always accepted medications for our members. The only exception to that rule is medications that must be refrigerated. We do not have the facilities necessary to accept those types of medications. We apologize for the confusion, and thank you for your phone calls and e-mails about the mis-print.

**REMINDER:**

We reply to e-mailed mailing instructions within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays), so, if you do not receive a response from us, please call our office at 800-231-9896.

**Safe travels,**

*Angie Carr*

**Angie Carr, Executive Director**

**and the entire Escapees Mail Service staff!**



**Emergency Contacts**

Please take a moment to update your emergency contact list. We use this information should an emergency arise that requires us to reach you or your loved ones immediately. Return this sheet to 101 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77399 or e-mail to [mailservice@escapees.com](mailto:mailservice@escapees.com).



**EMERGENCY RECORD INFORMATION SHEET**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SKP # \_\_\_\_\_ PMB \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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DRIVER LICENSE #: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DRIVER LICENSE #: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TRAVEL TRAILER/MOTOR HOME: \_\_\_\_\_

(MAKE) (MODEL) (YEAR)

(LICENSE #) (COLOR)

TOW RIG DESCRIPTION: \_\_\_\_\_

(MAKE) (MODEL) (YEAR)