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FEDERAL PRISON GUIDE

VISIT PACKET: FCI FORREST CITY MEDIUM

Federal Correctional Institution · Forrest City, AR · Phone 870-494-4200

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
Medium visiting room	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (rules); 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (handbook)
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	Mondays only, by phone and video, for one hour. They send a request to the SHU Lieutenant with the date, a one-hour time and who will visit.	One hour

Visitors are not allowed on the grounds before 7:45 a.m. (rules) or 8:00 a.m. (handbook). The handbook says no visitors are processed after 9:30 a.m. on weekends and holidays (for the 10:00 a.m. count) and none after 2:00 p.m. (for the 4:00 p.m. count). The rules say processing stops one hour before the count and one hour before visiting ends.

No regular visiting on weekdays. If visiting is canceled, the prison page on bop.gov shows a red banner. The Forrest City Medium page on bop.gov links an older version of the visiting rules, dated April 17, 2017. The newer August 2025 version is the one used here. [1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. The two newest BOP papers disagree. The **visiting rules (August 19, 2025)** say visiting is 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., visitors cannot be on the grounds before 7:45 a.m., and each inmate may have **four adults and five children**. The **handbook (July 21, 2026)** says 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., no one on the grounds before 8:00 a.m., and **three adults, no more than five visitors in all, children included**. Call 870-494-4200 before you drive, and plan for the stricter numbers.

THE RULES AT THE DOOR: ID, POINTS, WHAT YOU CAN BRING

HOW MANY VISITS	Each person gets **five visiting points a month**. One point is charged for each visit. If they have a morning visit and an afternoon visit on the same day, that is two points. [1]

HOW MANY PEOPLE	Rules (2025): four adults and five children, with extra children approved by the Unit Team. Handbook (2026): three adults, no more than five in all. A baby who must be carried is not counted. A child who can walk counts as one of the five. [1]
CHILDREN	Anyone under 18 needs written consent from a parent or legal guardian to visit. Children under 16 must be with a responsible adult. Parents must keep small children under control. The visiting room has a Children's Center. [2]
ID	You must show state or government photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport. No photo ID means you are not let in. [1]
SCREENING	You walk through a **metal detector**, your items are searched, and you may be tested with an **Ion Spectrometry Device**. Your hand is stamped with ultraviolet ink and checked going in and out. Metal plates, pins or a pacemaker: bring medical papers. Tell the front lobby officer about any contagious illness (such as measles or chicken pox). [1]
MONEY	Up to **$20.00** in $5 and $1 bills and change, for the vending machines. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	One small clear plastic purse, no bigger than 8 by 8 inches. For a baby: diapers, formula, sealed baby food and one blanket, only what you will use during the visit. Formula is mixed in front of the front lobby officer. Life-saving medication (like nitroglycerin or an inhaler) stays at the visiting room officer's station. You may bring only one key, to the car door. Lockers are only for people who came by cab or were dropped off. [1]
NOT ALLOWED IN	Strollers, baby carriers, baby powder or creams, food or drink, candy, gum, tobacco, matches or lighters, toys, photographs, papers, pens, phones and other electronics, cosmetics, and animals (except trained service animals). [1]
WHAT TO WEAR	Casual but conservative. No see-through clothes or holes, sleeveless shirts, tank, halter or crop tops, no clothes that show the stomach, back, underarms or thigh, no form-fitting clothes or stretch pants, no swim suits, hats (except religious headwear), camouflage, khaki or shirt and pant combinations that look like inmate clothing, sweat suits or hooded sweatshirts, sunglasses, backless outfits, profanity, open-toe shoes or flip-flops, purses, jackets or coats, gloves, scarves, wrist watches or pajamas. Skirts must be below the knee, sitting and standing. A light sweater is allowed if it has no hood or pockets. [1]
TOUCHING	A kiss and an embrace at the start and end of the visit. [1]
VENDING MACHINES	Visitors buy food and hand it to them unopened. They cannot go into the vending area. No sharing food or drink. [1]
IF YOU LEAVE	If a visitor leaves the visiting room for any reason, the visit is over for the day. [2]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	Handbook: visits end for the people who came in first, by sign-in time. Exceptions are made for people who traveled more than 100 miles. The Medium visiting room holds **364**. [2]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Your loved one tells their Unit Team who they want on the list. For someone who is not immediate family, the

Unit Team asks for background information, and your loved one mails the forms (BP-S309 and BP-S310) to you.

2. The Unit Team tells your loved one if you are approved. **They** tell you. Do not drive until you are approved.
3. Immediate family is mother, father, step-parents, foster parents, brothers, sisters, wife and children. A common-law wife needs verification.
4. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, in-laws, cousins, friends and others are ordinarily approved if the relationship started before prison.
5. Someone with a criminal record can still be approved after the Unit Team weighs it.
6. New arrivals with no list: only immediate family can visit, once the relationship is verified (usually within two weeks).
7. A visitor can be on only one inmate's list, except for immediate family.

Fill out the visiting form for Forrest City Medium

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

Street address for your GPS: 1400 Dale Bumpers Road, Forrest City, Ar 72335. [2]

WHAT TO WEAR TO A VISIT

The BOP beats to its own drum. The front desk has the final say. Keep a spare outfit in the car.

FCI FORREST CITY MEDIUM

Rules dated **April 17, 2017** (9 years old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/fom/fom_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/fom/fom_visit_sp.pdf)

9 years old. Ask your loved one to check the copy posted in the unit before you drive.

Skirts and dresses	Skirts below the knee standing and seated (0 inches above); slits not above knee.
Shorts	No form-fitting shorts; other version bans shorts shorter than knee length.
Colors to avoid	No khaki shirt-and-pant combination at Medium and Low components.
Leggings, spandex	No stretch pants or Spandex for adult visitors. No form-fitting shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, or shorts.
Bras and metal	Not in the written rules. Some prisons ban underwire bras anyway, and the penalty can be more than being sent home. Wear a sports bra or a bra with no wire.
Camouflage, military	No camouflage clothing.
Shoes	No open-toe footwear. No flip flops.
Children	Not in the written rules.

ALL 26 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts below the knee standing and seated (0 inches above); slits not above knee.
  BOP wording: "must be below the knee in a standing and seated"
- No form-fitting shorts; other version bans shorts shorter than knee length.
  BOP wording: "No formfitting pants or shorts. To include"
- No sleeveless shirts or semi-short sleeve shirts.
  BOP wording: "Sleeveless shirts may not be worn."
- No tops or dresses revealing stomach, back, underarms, or thigh; no crop tops.
  BOP wording: "No shirts, blouses, or dresses that reveal the"
- No tank tops, halter tops, or backless outfits.
  BOP wording: "tank tops, halter tops, crop tops, etc. No semi-"
- No see-through material, including revealing lace.
  BOP wording: "No clothing made from “see through” material;"
- No form-fitting shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, or shorts.
  BOP wording: "short sleeve shirts/blouses; no formfitting"
- No stretch pants or Spandex for adult visitors.
  BOP wording: "stretch pants, Spandex for adult visitors."

- No holes in clothing.
  BOP wording: "including revealing lace, and holes in clothing."
- No swim suits.
  BOP wording: "(f) No swim suits"
- No pajama clothing.
  BOP wording: "(r) No pajama clothing"
- No sweat suits, warm-up suits, or jogging suits.
  BOP wording: "No sweat suits or hooded sweat shirts, i.e."

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki shirt-and-pant combination at Medium and Low components.
  BOP wording: "At the Medium and Low components, no khaki or"
- No camouflage clothing.
  BOP wording: "(h) No camouflage clothing"

SHOES

- No open-toe footwear.
  BOP wording: "No open toe footwear, flip flops, etc."
- No flip flops.
  BOP wording: "No open toe footwear, flip flops, etc."

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats.
  BOP wording: "No hats. Exceptions will be made for traditional"
- Traditional religious headwear allowed, e.g., kufi, yarmulke, tam.
  BOP wording: "religious head wear, i.e., kufi, Yarmulkes, tam,"
- No hooded sweatshirts; sweaters must not have hoods.
  BOP wording: "No sweat suits or hooded sweat shirts, i.e."
- No jackets or coats; light sweater without hood or pockets allowed.
  BOP wording: "No jackets or coats, no gloves or scarfs, a light"

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No profanity or obscene clothing.
  BOP wording: "No profanity or obscene clothing"
- No suggestive or revealing clothing; casual attire must be conservative.
  BOP wording: "Absolutely no suggestive or revealing clothing will be"
- No athletic jerseys.
  BOP wording: "warm-up suits, or jogging suit; no athletic jerseys"
- No sunglasses, gloves, scarves, or wrist watches.
  BOP wording: "No jackets or coats, no gloves or scarfs, a light"
- No entirely white outfits at Medium and Low components (one version only).
  BOP wording: "pant combination; no entirely white outfits."

IF THEY SAY NO

- Admittance is at discretion of lobby, control, visiting officers, lieutenants, IDO.
  BOP wording: "visitors is up to the discretion of the Front Lobby"

MAIL AND THE MAILING ADDRESS

Use their committed name exactly as the BOP Inmate Locator shows it. The name and number below are examples (JOHN ANTHONY SMITH-JONES, 12345-678).

JOHN ANTHONY SMITH-JONES
Reg. No. 12345-678
FCI Forrest City Medium
P.O. Box 3000
Forrest City, Ar 72336

The BOP page lists the mailing address as P.O. Box 3000, Forrest City, AR 72336. Put their committed name, register number and unit on the envelope. [2]

Use the P.O. Box only. Never mail to the street address (1400 Dale Bumpers Road, Forrest City, Ar 72335).

MAIL DAYS	First class mail is handed out Monday through Friday (except holidays), usually by the evening watch officer in each living unit. No mail service on weekends and holidays. [2]
LEGAL MAIL	Legal and special mail is handed out by a member of the Correctional Systems Department as soon as possible after it arrives. [2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	At a medium-security prison they cannot seal outgoing mail. Every outgoing envelope needs a TRULINCS mailing label. [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. Send it to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines (see the Money tab), made out to their committed name and register number. [2]

Books and magazines: at a medium security prison, books and magazines must come straight from a publisher, book club or bookstore (Amazon, for example), never from home.

Sources

1. FOX 5267.09B, Visiting Regulations, Complex Supplement (August 19, 2025) bop.gov/locations/institutions/for/for_visit.pdf
2. FCC Forrest City Admission and Orientation Handbook (July 21, 2026) bop.gov/locations/institutions/for/fox_ao_handbook.pdf