Printed November 4, 2026 Last checked against official sources: November 3, 2026

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FEDERAL PRISON GUIDE

VISIT PACKET: FCI TALLADEGA

Federal Correctional Institution · Talladega, AL · Phone 256-315-4100

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
FCI (main prison)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Federal prison camp (FPC)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	Non-contact, by video. 2 hours, 2 visitors at most. The rules also say 2 hours of visiting a month. The rules give no days for SHU visits.	Visitors are not processed after 1:00 p.m.

The rules give no processing cutoff for regular visits. Visits end at 3:00 p.m. SHU visitors are not processed after 1:00 p.m. Once a visitor leaves the visiting room, that visit is over for the day.

The visiting rules give no regular visiting days except Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. Any change to the schedule is posted on the BOP website. [1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. The visiting rules are from **August 15, 2025**. The handbook (updated **March 2024**) disagrees. It says visiting is on **Saturday, Sunday, Monday** and federal holidays, and that visitors may bring in up to **$20.00** in bills of $5.00 or less and coins for the vending machines. The newer rules do not list Monday, and say vending machines take **debit or credit cards only, no cash or change**. Go by the newer rules and call 256-315-4100 before you drive.

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

HOW MANY PEOPLE	No more than **4 adult visitors** at a time. Children (15 or under) are not counted in that number. They may have an unlimited number of visits. Visitors under 16 must come with a parent, legal guardian or immediate family member. [1]

ID	Everyone **16 or older** needs a valid state or government photo ID. Anyone 16 or older with no photo ID is not allowed in. Accepted examples include a U.S. state or government photo ID, a passport with a U.S. visa stamp, and a valid U.S. military ID card. Teens 16 or 17 who are not with a parent, guardian or adult immediate family member need that adult's written approval first. [1]
SCREENING	Everyone must clear the walk-through **metal detector**. Visitors are randomly screened for drug residue with a drug screening machine. Staff can search you and your things; refusing means no visit. If you have a pacemaker, hip screws or another medical device, bring a letter from your health care provider and tell the front lobby officer before you are processed. [1]
MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	The visiting rules say vending machines take **debit or credit cards only**, one card per adult. Cash and change are not allowed in the visiting room. (The handbook says $20.00 cash; see above.) Visitors may buy food for them. All food must be eaten or thrown away before you leave. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	One clear or see-through coin purse, 5 x 7 inches or smaller, which staff inspect. Only a reasonable amount of prescription medicine in its original container, for a visitor who needs it right away (such as an asthma inhaler). Staff keep it at the officer's station. Leave phones and everything else in your car. Nothing may be left in the front lobby. [1]
FOR A BABY	Premixed formula or baby food in sealed original containers (no more than 2 foods, no glass), no more than 2 bottles (3/4 full, liquids only), 3 diapers, wet wipes in a sealable clear bag no bigger than 5 x 7 inches, 1 change of clothes, and no more than 2 baby blankets (no larger than 2 x 3 feet). **No strollers or baby carriers.** [1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No watches, sunglasses, hats, scarves, gloves, open-toed shoes, see-through clothes, tight or revealing tops or pants, halter or sleeveless shirts, sundresses or strapless dresses, hoodies, jogging or athletic pants, yoga pants or leggings, sweaters or shawls. Knee-length Bermuda-type shorts are allowed. No jewelry except a wedding ring. Skirts and dresses must reach the bend of the knee. Women must wear a bra. **No camouflage, and no solid white, khaki, dark green or gray.** [1]
TOUCHING	A handshake, hug and kiss at the start and at the end. They may hold babies and children under 2. They sit across from you, and you may not sit anywhere else. [1]
CHILDREN	Parents are responsible for how their children act. Children may play only in the play area, with a parent watching. Poor supervision can get you removed from the visiting list. [1]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	The FCI visiting room holds **105** and the camp room holds **75**. Staff first ask for volunteers to leave. Then they consider **how far you traveled** and how often you visit, and your health, age and physical limits. No one is asked to leave who has been there less than two hours. [1]
WALSH ACT	People with a sex offense involving a minor (Walsh Act assignment) have their visits closely monitored and sit as near as possible to the visiting room officer. [1]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Your loved one gets the visitor form **BP-A0629** (Visitor Information) and **mails it to you**.
2. Fill in **every part** of it. An incomplete form can be rejected. Mail it directly to their **counselor**.
3. The counselor checks you out and sends the form to the Unit Manager for approval. Staff tell your loved one if you were approved. **They** tell you. Do not drive until you are approved.
4. If you have a criminal background, were ever incarcerated, or have a felony conviction, the **Warden** must approve you.
5. If there is little or no information about you, visiting may be denied until staff get what they need.
6. Friends and associates must usually have known them before prison. The rules allow exceptions, especially for someone with no other visitors.
7. Their list can be changed at any time under the rules. If they are transferred, the approved list goes with them.

Fill out the visiting form for Talladega

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

FROM I-20	The prison is 12.6 miles south of I-20. After you exit I-20, use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto AL-77 N and go 9.6 miles. Turn left onto AL-275 N and go 2.2 miles. Turn right onto E Renfroe Rd and go 0.5 miles. You are at the prison. Address: 565 East Renfroe Road, Talladega, Alabama 35160.
BUS, TAXI, MOTELS	The bus depot is about thirty miles from the prison. Taxi service is available. There is no prison shuttle. There are three motels in Talladega, about five miles from the prison. The BOP says no help is available for money problems such as car repairs.

Street address for your GPS: 565 East Renfroe Road, Talladega, Al 35160. [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 TALLADEGA

Rules dated **August 15, 2025** (1 year old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/tdg/tdg_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/tdg/tdg_visit_sp.pdf)

Skirts and dresses	Skirts/slits/dresses may not come above bend of knee (0 inches).
Shorts	Only knee length Bermuda-type shorts are permitted.
Colors to avoid	No solid khaki clothing. No solid dark green clothing. No solid grey clothing. No solid white clothing.
Leggings, spandex	No yoga pants, leggings, or jeggings. No tight pants or tight/revealing shirts or blouses.
Bras and metal	All clothing should be free of metal to clear the detector. Female visitors must wear undergarments (bra).
Camouflage, military	No camouflage clothing.
Shoes	Shoes required, no part of foot visible; no open-toed shoes. No flip flops or croc style shoes.
Children	No exceptions: clothing rules apply to all visitors regardless of age.

ALL 27 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts/slits/dresses may not come above bend of knee (0 inches).
  BOP wording: "Skirts with slits or dresses that come above the bend of the knee will not be permitted."
- Only knee length Bermuda-type shorts are permitted.
  BOP wording: "However, knee length Bermuda-type shorts are permitted."
- No sleeveless shirts.
  BOP wording: "halter or sleeveless shirts, sundress or strapless dresses,"
- No halter shirts or strapless dresses.
  BOP wording: "halter or sleeveless shirts, sundress or strapless dresses,"
- No see-through clothing.
  BOP wording: "open-toed shoes, see-through clothing, tight pants,"
- No tight pants or tight/revealing shirts or blouses.
  BOP wording: "clothing, tight pants, tight or revealing shirts or blouses,"
- No yoga pants, leggings, or jeggings.
  BOP wording: "or yoga pants/leggings/jeggings, sweaters or shawl/scarfs"
- No jogging shorts/pants or athletic pants.
  BOP wording: "hoodies or jogging shorts/pants, athletic pants,"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No solid khaki clothing.
  BOP wording: "Camouflage and any type of solid white, khaki, dark green, or grey colored clothing"
- No solid dark green clothing.
  BOP wording: "dark green, or grey colored clothing is also prohibited"
- No solid grey clothing.
  BOP wording: "dark green, or grey colored clothing is also prohibited"
- No solid white clothing.
  BOP wording: "any type of solid white, khaki,"
- No camouflage clothing.
  BOP wording: "Camouflage and any type of solid white, khaki,"

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- Female visitors must wear undergarments (bra).
  BOP wording: "Female visitors must wear undergarments (bra)."
- All clothing should be free of metal to clear the detector.
  BOP wording: "All clothing should be free of metal,"
- No watches; wedding ring only, no other jewelry.
  BOP wording: "Visitors are authorized to wear a wedding ring, but no other jewelry is permitted to be worn during visitation"

SHOES

- Shoes required, no part of foot visible; no open-toed shoes.
  BOP wording: "Shoes must be worn at all times and no part of the foot is to be visible"
- No flip flops or croc style shoes.
  BOP wording: "Open-toed shoes, flip flops, croc style shoes, etc.)."

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats or scarves.
  BOP wording: "Watches, sunglasses, hats, scarves, gloves, open-toed shoes, see-through"
- No hoodies.
  BOP wording: "hoodies or jogging shorts/pants, athletic pants,"

CHILDREN

- No exceptions: clothing rules apply to all visitors regardless of age.
  BOP wording: "Clothing regulations apply to all visitors, regardless of age."

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No club, gang, or organizational symbols.
  BOP wording: "The wearing of any type of club, gang, or other organizational symbols is strictly prohibited."
- No sunglasses, gloves, sweaters, or shawls.
  BOP wording: "Watches, sunglasses, hats, scarves, gloves, open-toed shoes, see-through"
- No sundresses.
  BOP wording: "shirts, sundress or strapless dresses,"
- No suggestive or revealing clothing; grounds for denial.

BOP wording: "Clothing of a suggestive or revealing nature will not be allowed"

IF THEY SAY NO

- Immodestly dressed visitors may get a chance to change before denial.
  BOP wording: "may be given a chance to change clothes before being denied the privilege of visiting."
- Attire questions go to Operations Lieutenant or IDO, who alone can deny.
  BOP wording: "Questions pertaining to a visitor's attire are to be referred to the Operations Lieutenant or IDO."

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 Talladega
P.m.b 1000
Talladega, Al 35160

The handbook says the address needs their **name, register number and unit**, then the prison's box number and city. Ask your loved one for their unit. [2]

Use exactly this address. Talladega has no P.O. Box for inmate mail.

MAIL DAYS	The mail room handles mail Monday through Friday. No mail is processed on weekends or holidays. [2]
OPENED AND CHECKED	All incoming mail is opened and checked for contraband by staff, except Special Mail and Legal Mail. [2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	Outgoing regular mail may not be sealed. It must have a return address. Letters with no return address are not mailed. They use a printed address label. [2]
LEGAL MAIL	Opened and checked in front of them. The front of the envelope should read "Special Mail - Open in the Presence of the Inmate." [2]
PACKAGES	Receiving or mailing a package is not allowed unless specifically approved. [2]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	Newspapers, magazines and other publications must be mailed straight from the publisher or a bookstore. For books and hobby craft items, they ask the Supervisor of Education. For other publications, they ask their unit team. [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. It goes to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines, Iowa (see the Money tab). Visitors may not hand over money. [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. TDG5267.09B, Visiting Regulations (August 15, 2025) bop.gov/locations/institutions/tdg/tdg_visit.pdf
2. FCI Talladega Admission and Orientation Handbook (reviewed/updated March 2024) bop.gov/locations/institutions/tdg/tdg_ao-handbook.pdf