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Mailing this to someone inside? Print one side only, black ink, plain white paper. No staples or clips. Put their full name and number on the envelope. Some facilities limit pages per envelope: check their mail rules first.

FEDERAL PRISON GUIDE

VISIT PACKET: FMC DEVENS

Federal Medical Center · Ayer, MA · Phone 978-796-1000

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
FMC (main medical center)	Sunday, Monday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Satellite camp (FPC)	Sunday, Monday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	Tuesdays only	8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

No one is let into the FMC visiting room after 2:00 p.m. (the camp: **2:30 p.m.**). The last visitors are processed 60 minutes before visiting ends. Do not arrive more than **15 minutes** before visiting starts. On Sundays and holidays, no one is let in or out from 9:30 a.m. until the 10:00 a.m. count clears.

No visiting Wednesday through Saturday, except federal holidays. [1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. The visiting rules (July 22, 2025) say SHU visits on Tuesday are **8:30 to 10:30 a.m.** The handbook (March 2026) says **8:30 to 10:00 a.m.** Call 978-796-1000 (option 1 for visiting information) before you drive.

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

HOW MANY VISITS	At the FMC each person gets **7 visiting points a month**. A Sunday visit costs **3 points**. A Monday visit costs **1 point**. Federal holiday, lawyer, professional, legal and PVS visits cost **0**. Points do not carry over. Unit managers can approve more. The rules say the point system is at the FMC only. [1]
HOW MANY PEOPLE	No more than **4 visitors** at one time. Children under 16 must come with a parent or legal guardian who is on the approved list. [1]
ID	Every visitor needs valid photo ID issued by a state or the government. [1]
SCREENING	Everyone signs the Notification to Inmate Visitor form. Anyone who refuses the form or a search is refused entry. Your hand-carried items can be searched while you watch. [1]

MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	A small see-through coin purse with up to **$20.00 in coins**. Only visitors may use the machines. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	A clear bag no bigger than 6 inches long, 6 wide and 3 deep. For a baby: 2 clear empty baby bottles, 3 diapers, and a reasonable amount of wipes in a clear container. Medicine should be taken before or after the visit. Needs for health reasons are up to the Operations Lieutenant. [1]
NOT ALLOWED IN	Food and drinks from outside (the vending machines are for you), pets (service animals are fine), smoking or gathering in front of the building. [1]
TOUCHING	Handshaking, embracing and kissing, only at the start and end of the visit. The handbook says visitors may not sit adults or children on their lap. [1]
WHERE YOU SIT	Adult visitors and inmates sit on opposite sides, including at the picnic benches outside at the camp. [1]
PARKING	Do not wait in the parking lot before visiting hours. Cars are locked during visits. People not allowed to visit must leave the grounds, parking lots included. [1]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	The FMC room seats **225**. The camp seats **237** inside and **125** outside. Visits can be ended for overcrowding, judged by weather, how often you visit and **how far you traveled**. [1]
HOSPITAL VISITS	A visit at the hospital is for critically ill people, with the Warden's approval. [2]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. At admission and orientation, staff ask your loved one for a list of proposed visitors. Immediate family is checked against the presentence report and an NCIC check.
2. For other relatives and friends, you fill out **Form BP-629, Visitor Information** before they can be considered.
3. The unit team tells your loved one who was approved. **They** tell you. Do not drive until you are approved.
4. The list holds no more than **10 friends and associates**. Friends are normally approved only if the relationship existed before prison. Only the Warden can approve anyone with a prior conviction.
5. Your loved one changes the list by sending a request to their unit team.

Fill out the visiting form for Devens

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

TO FMC/FPC DEVENS, 42 PATTON ROAD, DEVENS, MA 01434	The FMC and FPC are directly off Route 2 at the Jackson Road exit (exit 37). Turn right on Patton Road. The FMC is on your right. The FPC is another half a mile down Patton Road, also on the right. Phone: (978) 796-1000.

Street address for your GPS: 42 Patton Road, Ayer, Ma 01432. [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.

FMC DEVENS

Rules dated **July 22, 2025** (1 year old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/dev/dev_visit_2025.pdf) No Spanish version posted

Skirts and dresses	Skirts, dresses and slits no higher than two inches above the knee.
Shorts	No shorts of any kind; allowed for children only.
Colors to avoid	No khaki, tan, or brown clothing resembling inmate attire. No gray clothing resembling inmate attire.
Leggings, spandex	No spandex or hip-hugger pants/jeans. No skin-tight clothing.
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. No hospital scrubs or medical uniforms.
Shoes	No open-toed shoes; feet must be enclosed. No thongs or sandals.
Children	Children may wear shorts; infants may wear hats.

ALL 22 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts, dresses and slits no higher than two inches above the knee.
  BOP wording: "Skirts and dresses must be longer than two inches above the knee"
- No shorts of any kind; allowed for children only.
  BOP wording: "Shorts (shorts are allowed for children only)"
- All garments must have sleeves; no vests or tank tops.
  BOP wording: "Sleeveless garments of any kind (such as vests or tank tops)"
- No low-cut shirts or blouses; no V-necks.
  BOP wording: "low cut shirts or blouses, wraparound skirts"
- No belly shirts exposing the abdomen.
  BOP wording: "Belly shirts (abdomen exposed)"
- No see-through garments.
  BOP wording: "See-through garments of any kind"
- No skin-tight clothing.
  BOP wording: "Skin-tight clothing of any kind (including spandex)"
- No spandex or hip-hugger pants/jeans.
  BOP wording: "Hip Hugger or spandex pants/jeans"
- No jogging or sweat suits.
  BOP wording: "Jogging/sweat suits of any kind"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki, tan, or brown clothing resembling inmate attire.
  BOP wording: "Khaki clothing (tan or like type the inmates wear)"
- No gray clothing resembling inmate attire.
  BOP wording: "Articles of clothing which closely resemble inmate attire will not be permitted such as khaki, brown, or gray."
- No camouflage clothing.
  BOP wording: "Tee shirts, Jogging/Sweat suits, camouflage clothing and open toe shoes are not permitted."
- No hospital scrubs or medical uniforms.
  BOP wording: "Hospital scrubs or medical uniforms"

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- No excessive jewelry.
  BOP wording: "above the knee . Excessive jewelry"

SHOES

- No open-toed shoes; feet must be enclosed.
  BOP wording: "Open-toed shoes, thongs, or sandals (feet must be enclosed)"
- No thongs or sandals.
  BOP wording: "No thong, open toe shoes or sandals allowed."

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats or caps except for infants.
  BOP wording: "Hats or caps (except for infants)"

CHILDREN

- Children may wear shorts; infants may wear hats.
  BOP wording: "Hats or caps (except for infants)"

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No clothing with vulgar or offensive words or pictures.
  BOP wording: "Articles of clothing displaying any wording or pictures deemed vulgar or offensive"
- No wraparound skirts, untucked shirts, sagging pants, camisoles as outerwear.
  BOP wording: "Untucked shirts . Sagging pants/jeans"

IF THEY SAY NO

- Operations Lieutenant may terminate visits for improper dress.
  BOP wording: "has the authority to terminate any visit due to improper dress,"
- Capris allowed only at knee length if inspecting official approves.
  BOP wording: "(Capris are authorized at knee length and deemed appropriate by our inspecting official)"

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
FMC Devens
P.O. Box 879
Ayer, Ma 01432

The handbook gives the address as their committed name and register number, "Unit:", then Federal Medical Center, Devens, P.O. Box 879, Ayer, MA 01432. **Incoming general mail is photocopied.** They get the black-and-white copy of the letter and envelope, not the original. [2]

The **camp uses the same P.O. Box**.

Use the P.O. Box only. Never mail to the street address (42 Patton Road, Ayer, Ma 01432).

PHOTOCOPIED	All incoming general mail, including the envelope and everything inside, is photocopied in black and white. Photos (up to 25 per mailing) are photocopied in color. They only get the copies. [2]
MAIL DAYS	Mail is handed out by the unit officer Monday through Friday, right after the 4:00 p.m. count. [2]
LEGAL MAIL	Opened and checked in front of them. They sign a log for it. [2]
CERTIFIED MAIL	Certified mail that is not legal mail is opened in the mail room before they get it. [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. It goes to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines, Iowa (see the Money tab). [2]
AFTER RELEASE OR TRANSFER	Mail is forwarded for 30 days. [2]

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

Sources

1. DEV 5267.09N, Visiting Regulations (July 22, 2025) bop.gov/locations/institutions/dev/dev_visit.pdf
2. FMC Devens Admission and Orientation Handbook (March 2026) bop.gov/locations/institutions/dev/dev_ao-handbook.pdf