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

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: MDC BROOKLYN

Metropolitan Detention Center · Brooklyn, NY · Phone 718-840-4200

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
Weekdays (2025 attorney guide and 2017 rules)	Each housing unit has one set day. Afternoon or evening sessions, which swap each month (see below).	12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., or 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Weekends (2017 rules only)	Some units visit on Saturday or Sunday (see "Which day" below). The 2025 guide lists only Monday to Friday.	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Length of a visit	Pretrial and holdover inmates: one hour per visit, one hour per week. The visit starts when they reach the visiting room.	One hour

Processing starts 30 minutes before visiting hours. Visitors who arrive within one hour of the end of visiting hours are not processed. On weekdays and holidays, no one enters after 6:30 p.m. On weekends, no one enters after 2:00 p.m. Each unit visits on its own day, and the BOP's 2025 guide says the prison **will not give that day and time to visitors**, so your loved one must tell you.

The 2025 attorney guide lists social visiting Monday to Friday only. The 2017 visiting rules also list weekends for some units. [1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. Brooklyn's visiting rules are from **May 2, 2017**, and the BOP's Attorney Guide is from **November 2025**. They disagree on two things. **Weekends:** the 2017 rules list weekend visiting from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for some units, but the 2025 guide lists only Monday to Friday. **Common-law partners:** the 2017 rules say common-law relationships are not counted as immediate family, while the 2025 guide says someone who lived with a pretrial inmate and has no legal spouse may be allowed to visit if the relationship is documented (for example a lease, children's birth certificates or a shared address on a driver's license). **Call 718-840-4200 and ask your loved one before you travel.**

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

HOW MANY VISITS	Pretrial and holdover inmates visit **one hour per week** at the time set for their housing unit, and only **one social visit per day**. The request form says they get at least four hours of visiting a month. [1]
HOW MANY PEOPLE	No more than **4 social visitors at one time**. Children 4 and under who stay on a lap the whole visit do not count. Visitors may visit only one inmate at a time unless the inmates are immediate family. [1]
WHICH DAY	The 2017 rules list the days: East Building: female units visit on Sunday, Saturday and Wednesday afternoon; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are legal visits only. West Building: Monday, 6th floor; Tuesday, 7th floor; Wednesday, 8th floor; Thursday, 4th floor; Friday, 5th floor and male cadre (afternoon); male cadre also Saturday and Sunday. Units may have changed since 2017: ask them. [1]
AFTERNOON OR EVENING	An "odd/even" system swaps afternoon and evening each month, based on the **fifth digit of their register number**. In the even-numbered months (February, April, June, October, December), people with an even fifth digit visit in the afternoon and people with an odd digit in the evening. In the odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, November) it is the reverse. [1]
ID	Anyone over 16 must prove who they are with a valid driver's license, school ID card, or state or federal picture ID. A missing expiration date does not make the ID invalid. Under 18 needs a parent or guardian's signature to be processed. Under 16 must come with a parent or guardian. [1]
SCREENING	Everyone signs a Notification to Visitor form (BP-A0224) before each visit and walks through the **metal detector**. You may have to take off shoes, belts or glasses. A hand-held detector is used if it goes off. Staff stamp your hand. The 2025 guide also mentions an ION drug scanner and recommends medical papers for implants. [1]
LOCKERS	Cell phones, pagers, newspapers, magazines, tissues, wallets, personal keys and watches are not allowed in. They go in a lobby locker before you pass the entrance. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	One small clear plastic container no bigger than 4 by 7 inches, up to **$30** in $1 and $5 bills and coins, and for a baby: two diapers, one small receiving blanket and one bottle of formula. [1]
MONEY	Visitors cannot pass money to them, and staff cannot take money for their account during a visit. Their loved one cannot use the vending machines; visitors buy from them. [1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No coats or outerwear (overcoats, raincoats, parkas, puffy vests), though blazers, jackets and cardigans are fine. No open-toe shoes, sandals or wheeled shoes: shoes must be closed with at least a strap around the heel. No khaki, tan or beige, sweatpants, hooded shirts, swimwear, tube tops, midriff or low-cut tops, spandex, yoga pants, jeggings or see-through clothes. No hats, visors, scarves or sunglasses (religious headwear is allowed). No sleeveless tops unless covered by a sweater, cardigan or blazer with sleeves. Skirts, dresses and shorts must be no shorter than three inches above the knee. [1]

TOUCHING	One embrace and one brief kiss at the beginning and again at the end of a visit. [1]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	Staff first ask for volunteers to leave. Then visitors who have been in the room longest are asked to leave. [1]
LEAVING THE ROOM	If a visitor leaves the visiting room, that visit is over for the day. A visitor who leaves cannot come back until the next visiting day. [1]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Within about five working days of arrival, they set up a visiting list with their Unit Team on the **Request for Visitor Approval form**. Only immediate family (mother, father, wife, husband, step-parents, brothers, sisters and children) may go on the list of a pretrial or holdover inmate. Anyone with a criminal record needs the Warden's written approval first.
2. If more background information is needed, the **Visitor Information Form (BP-A0629)** is filled out and returned to the Unit Team. Visitors also send a **Release of Information form**, which they mail back to the Unit Counselor. The counselor then runs an NCIC background check.
3. Immediate family with the same last name as them are normally added within **three working days**. If the last name is different, staff may ask for papers first. Pretrial and holdover inmates must show documented proof of the family relationship.
4. The counselor tells them who was approved. **They** tell you. Do not travel until you are approved.
5. The list holds **no more than 8 visitors**. After six months of clear conduct, two more can be added. It can be changed by a request to staff as often as every **90 days**.
6. Sentenced work-crew (cadre) inmates may add up to 4 other relatives or friends after a good background check.

Fill out the visiting form for Brooklyn

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

ADDRESS	80 29th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11232. Telephone 718-840-4200.
BY SUBWAY	Take the "R" train to 25th Street.
BY CAR	Take the 39th Street exit off the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE) eastbound, or the 39th Street exit off the westbound BQE. The visiting rules say to use a navigation service for directions from other states.
BY AIR	John F. Kennedy International Airport 718-244-4444; LaGuardia Airport 718-533-3400; Newark International Airport 973-533-3400 (numbers from the 2017 rules).

Street address for your GPS: 80 29th Street, Brooklyn, Ny 11232. [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.

MDC BROOKLYN

Rules dated **May 2, 2017** (9 years old)

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

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

Skirts and dresses	Skirts, dresses, shorts and slits no more than three inches above the knee.
Shorts	Not in the written rules.
Colors to avoid	No khaki, tan, or beige clothing.
Leggings, spandex	No lycra, spandex, yoga pants or jeggings. No tight-fitting 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 military clothing unless visitor has military identification.
Shoes	Shoes must be closed-toe with at least a heel strap; no wheeled shoes. No sandals.
Children	Not in the written rules.

ALL 22 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts, dresses, shorts and slits no more than three inches above the knee.
  BOP wording: "Skirts or dresses or shorts must be no shorter than three inches above the knee."
- No sleeveless tops/dresses unless covered by sleeved sweater or jacket all visit.
  BOP wording: "No sleeveless clothing, to include tops, dresses, or blouses, unless covered by a sweater/cardigan, suit jacket or blazer,"
- No low-cut revealing clothing.
  BOP wording: "or low cut (revealing) clothing."
- No midriff-baring clothing.
  BOP wording: "No swim wear, tube tops, midriffs, or low cut"
- No tube tops.
  BOP wording: "No swim wear, tube tops, midriffs,"
- No see-through clothing or clothing that shows undergarments.
  BOP wording: "Clothing must not be see-through or reveal any undergarments."
- No tight-fitting clothing.
  BOP wording: "No lycra or spandex or tight fitting clothing"
- No lycra, spandex, yoga pants or jeggings.
  BOP wording: "No lycra or spandex or tight fitting clothing to include yoga pants and jeggings."
- No shirts or pants with holes.

BOP wording: "No shirts or pants with holes."

- No swimwear.
  BOP wording: "No swim wear, tube tops, midriffs, or low cut (revealing) clothing."
- No sweatpants.
  BOP wording: "No sweatpants or hooded shirts."

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki, tan, or beige clothing.
  BOP wording: "No military without identification, khaki, tan, or beige clothing."
- No military clothing unless visitor has military identification.
  BOP wording: "No military without identification, khaki, tan, or beige clothing."

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- All visitors must wear proper undergarments.
  BOP wording: "All visitors are expected to wear proper undergarments."

SHOES

- Shoes must be closed-toe with at least a heel strap; no wheeled shoes.
  BOP wording: "No open toe shoes or sandals and no wheeled shoes."
- No sandals.
  BOP wording: "No open toe shoes or sandals"

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats, visors, scarves (incl. neck/waist), sunglasses, or long hair picks.
  BOP wording: "No hats, visors, scarves, sunglasses, or long hair picks."
- Religious headwear (yarmulkes, turbans, kufis, shawls, wraps) allowed after screening.
  BOP wording: "Headwear worn for religious purposes (yarmulkes, turbans, kufis, prayer shawls and any other religious clothing or wraps used to cover the face and/or hair) is authorized"
- No hooded shirts.
  BOP wording: "No sweatpants or hooded shirts."
- No overcoats, raincoats, parkas, winter coats or puffy vests; blazers/cardigans OK.
  BOP wording: "Visitors are not permitted to wear overcoats, rain coats, parkas, winter coats, or puffy vests into the institution."

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No provocative, revealing or offensive clothing (profanity, nudity, disparaging remarks).
  BOP wording: "Clothing cannot be provocative, revealing, or offensive (containing profanity, nudity, or disparaging remarks)"

IF THEY SAY NO

- Operations Lieutenant or Duty Officer decides on questionable attire.
  BOP wording: "The Operations Lieutenant or Duty Officer will be contacted regarding any questionable inmate visitor attire,"

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
MDC Brooklyn
P.O. Box 329002
Brooklyn, Ny 11232

The handbook gives the mailing address as **P.O. Box 329002**. It also asks senders to put the **housing unit** on the envelope to speed up delivery. [2]

Use the P.O. Box only. Never mail to the street address (80 29th Street, Brooklyn, Ny 11232).

WHITE ONLY	Envelopes and paper must be **white**. Non-white envelopes or paper, glitter, stickers, lipstick, perfume, stains or oily substances are rejected. [2]
COPIES ONLY	General mail may be photocopied, including greeting cards. They get the copy, not the original. Stamps may be removed from the envelope at any time. [2]
MAIL DAYS	First-class mail is handed out Monday through Friday (except holidays) by the evening-watch officer in each unit. Weekend and holiday mail is usually not provided. [2]
PACKAGES	Every package needs approval first. [2]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	Hardcover and softcover books, magazines and newspapers may come **only from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore**. [2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	Outgoing general mail is left unsealed in the unit mailbox, and staff may inspect and read it. [2]
LEGAL MAIL	Opened in front of them if the sender is named and the envelope says "Special Mail - open only in the presence of the inmate." [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. The handbook sends money through the BOP lockbox, Western Union or MoneyGram (see the Money tab). [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. BRO-5267.09, Inmate Visiting, Institution Supplement (May 2, 2017) bop.gov/locations/institutions/bro/bro_visit.pdf
2. MDC Brooklyn Admission and Orientation Handbook (updated July 23, 2021) bop.gov/locations/institutions/bro/bro_ao-handbook.pdf