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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: USP CANAAN

U.S. Penitentiary · Waymart, PA · Phone 570-488-8000

VISIT CARD · CUT OUT AND KEEP IN THE CAR

WHEN
Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays
No social visiting except Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays.[1]

HOURS
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Visitors are not processed before 8:00 a.m.[1]

VISITS
8 points on the 1st of each month.
8 points on the 1st of each month.[1]

WHO CAN COME
4 approved visitors at one time
No more than 4 approved visitors at one time, counting adults, children and babies.[1]

BRING
Photo ID
Valid state or government photo ID.[1]

CALL FIRST
570-488-8000
Call before you drive, every time.

THE BOP'S OWN PAPERS DISAGREE. The handbook (revised April 2022) says something different: visiting **Friday**, Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 8 points a month (2 points for a weekend, 1 for a weekday, 0 for a federal holiday), and **5 visitors** at a time. The newer visiting rules (December 22, 2025) list no Friday, charge 2 points for every visit, and allow **4 visitors** at a time. Go by the newer rules and call 570-488-8000 before you drive.[1]

BEFORE YOU GO: GET ON THE LIST

1. At admission your loved one gets a **Visitor Information Questionnaire, BP-A0629**, and a Visitor Information Handout. They mail them to you, or you can get the form at www.bop.gov. (Indigent inmates can ask the Unit Manager for stamps.)
2. You fill out and sign the form and return it to their **Unit Counselor**. Nothing else happens until the counselor has the complete form.
3. The counselor runs a background check (NCIC). Questionable convictions go to the Associate Warden of Programs; the Warden reviews former federal inmates.
4. The counselor tells them who was approved or denied. **They** tell you. Do not drive until you are approved.
5. The list holds immediate family, other relatives and no more than **10 friends and associates**. Friends must usually have known them before prison. The Warden must approve an exception.
6. They can change the list once each quarter by sending an Inmate Request to Staff to their Unit Team.
7. Special visits (for a person not on the list) must be requested at least two weeks ahead.[1]

AT THE DOOR

CHILDREN	Children under 16 cannot visit unless a responsible adult supervises them closely.[1]
SCREENING	You sign the log book and fill out a Notification of Visitor form, and pass the walk-through metal detector. Staff stamp your hand and check it under a black light when you go in and when you leave. If you have metal plates, pins or a pacemaker, bring medical papers that say what it is and where it is.[1]
MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	No more than **$30.00**, in a small clear plastic bag no bigger than 8 x 10. No wallets. Vending machines are for visitors only.[1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	Vending money, essential medication and feminine hygiene products (only what you need during the visit, held by staff). Handbags and purses go in a front-lobby locker or your locked car. Staff do not secure your property.[1]
FOR A BABY	Per child: 3 diapers, 1 clear package of wipes, 1 change of clothes, 2 clear baby bottles or sippy cups with contents, 2 small unopened jars of baby food, 1 receiving blanket, 1 plastic serving spoon and 1 small clear plastic tote. A private room is available for nursing.[1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	Nothing that shows the upper body or underwear (halter tops, midriffs), no tank tops, tube tops or spaghetti straps, no tights, sweat suits or sports jerseys, **no shorts of any kind**, nothing above the knee or with high slits. No khaki, tan, light brown or dark green. No camouflage, hats, scarves, hooded tops, scrubs, ripped clothes, plain white t-shirts, flip-flops, sandals, open-toe, heeled or platform shoes, or watches. Women must wear a bra, but not underwire.[1]
NOT ALLOWED IN	Cell phones, cameras and electronics of any kind. Tobacco of any kind. Watches.[1]
TOUCHING	One brief embrace and one closed-mouth kiss at the start and end, in the marked "Embrace Box" next to the officer's station. Inmates may have limited contact with children, but **no child may sit on their lap**. Staff may check mouths.[1]
PHOTOS	Tasteful photos in a marked area only, in the order people signed up.[1]
PARKING	Park only in the marked red visitor spaces. No loitering. No campers, RVs or tractor trailers. People who are not visiting may not wait on the property.[1]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	Each visiting room (USP and camp) holds **90** people. When full, visits end in the order people came in.[1]
NON-CONTACT VISITS	In non-contact booths, visits are limited to 2 hours and booths fill first come, first served.[1]

ALL VISITING DAYS AND HOURS

WHERE	DAYS	HOURS
USP (main prison)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Satellite camp (SPC)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	During regular visiting hours. Non-contact, up to 2 hours.	Visitors processed until 1:00 p.m.

Visitors are not processed before 8:00 a.m. or after 2:00 p.m. No visitors are escorted in after **9:00 a.m.** on Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays until the 10:00 a.m. count clears. For SHU visits, processing stops at 1:00 p.m. Visiting can be suspended during visiting hours; check www.bop.gov and call 570-488-8000.[1]

No social visiting except Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. The rules' 2026 calendar puts Red Side (units A, B, C) and Blue Side (units D, E, F) on different weekends, so check the calendar for your loved one's side.

GETTING THERE

From Scranton	Take I-81 north to Route 6 to the town of Waymart. At the stop light turn right onto State Route 296. Follow Route 296 for 1.4 miles. The prison entrance is on the right.
From New York or Milford	Take I-84 west to exit 17. Turn onto Route 191 north and stay on Route 191 until signs for Route 296 north appear (Route 196 turns into Route 296). Continue on Route 296 until signs for the prison entrance appear.

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.

USP CANAAN

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

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/caa/caa_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/caa/caa_visit_sp.pdf)

Skirts and dresses	Skirts/dresses must not be above the knee (0 inches); no slits above knee.
Shorts	No shorts of any kind.
Colors to avoid	No khaki, tan, or light brown clothing. No dark green clothing. No colors similar to inmate attire; no plain white t-shirts.
Leggings, spandex	No tights.
Bras and metal	No underwire bras; they set off the metal detector. Female visitors must wear a bra.
Camouflage, military	No camouflage material or fatigues. No military garments of any type.
Shoes	No open-toed, heeled, or platform shoes. No flip flops, sandals, or house slippers.
Children	Not in the written rules.

ALL 26 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts/dresses must not be above the knee (0 inches); no slits above knee.
  BOP wording: "Skirts or dresses which are above the knee in length or have slits extending above the knee."
- No shorts of any kind.
  BOP wording: "e Shorts of any kind."
- Garments must cover the top of the shoulder; no tank tops.
  BOP wording: "Garments which do not cover the top of the shoulder"
- No garments revealing upper torso, cleavage, or undergarments.
  BOP wording: "Garments which reveal portions of the upper torso, cleavage, and/or undergarments"
- No midriff-baring tops.
  BOP wording: "cleavage, and/or undergarments (ex: halter tops, midriffs, etc..)."
- No halter tops, tube tops, or spaghetti straps.
  BOP wording: "(ex: tank tops, tube tops, spaghetti straps, etc..)."
- No skin-toned garments or ones showing undergarment outlines.
  BOP wording: "Any garment which appears to be skin toned or allows the outline of the undergarments to be visible."
- No tights.
  BOP wording: "Athletic garments (ex: tights, sweat suits, jogging"
- No clothing with rips, holes, or tears.
  BOP wording: "Any clothing with rips, holes, or tears."

- No athletic garments like sweat suits or jogging suits.
  BOP wording: "Athletic garments (ex: tights, sweat suits, jogging suits, sports jerseys, etc..)."

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki, tan, or light brown clothing.
  BOP wording: "Any clothing items of the following colors, khaki, tan, light brown, dark green,"
- No dark green clothing.
  BOP wording: "tan, light brown, dark green, or any similar color to inmate attire."
- No colors similar to inmate attire; no plain white t-shirts.
  BOP wording: "or any similar color to inmate attire."
- No camouflage material or fatigues.
  BOP wording: "Camouflage material or fatigues or any type of"
- No military garments of any type.
  BOP wording: "Camouflage material or fatigues or any type of military garments."

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- Female visitors must wear a bra.
  BOP wording: "Female visitors will be required to wear a bra."
- No underwire bras; they set off the metal detector.
  BOP wording: "wire undergarments are not acceptable, as this will activate the metal detector."
- No watches of any kind.
  BOP wording: "e Watches of any kind, wrist, pocket, etc."

SHOES

- No open-toed, heeled, or platform shoes.
  BOP wording: "Flip flops, sandals, house slippers, open-toed shoes, heeled type shoes, or platform soled shoes"
- No flip flops, sandals, or house slippers.
  BOP wording: "Flip flops, sandals, house slippers, open-toed"

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats or scarves.
  BOP wording: "e Hats, scarves, heavy outer coats."
- No hooded jackets, sweatshirts, or any hooded clothing.
  BOP wording: "Hooded jackets, sweatshirts, or any clothing with a hood."
- No heavy outer coats, long coats, or puffy jackets; jackets go on rack.
  BOP wording: "Long coats (ex: trench coats), or overly large, puffy jackets will not be permitted into the visiting room."

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No sports jerseys.
  BOP wording: "suits, sports jerseys, etc..)."
- No hospital scrubs or hospital type clothing.
  BOP wording: "Hospital scrubs or hospital type clothing."

IF THEY SAY NO

- List not all-inclusive; Operations Lieutenant or IDO decides questionable attire.
  BOP wording: "The above list is not all inclusive. Any attire deemed questionable may prevent visitors from entering the institution."

MAIL AND THE MAILING ADDRESS

Your full name
Your street address
City, State ZIP

STAMP

Their committed name, exactly as the BOP Inmate Locator shows it

Reg. No. _____-___
USP Canaan
P.O. Box 300
Waymart, PA 18472

The envelope, filled in. Their name and number must match the BOP Inmate Locator exactly.[2]

The handbook says to put their **register number and housing unit** (for example A1, A2, B1) on the envelope. The camp has its own P.O. Box (see the address above).[2]

> **USE THE P.O. BOX ONLY.** Never mail to the street address.

THE MAIL RULES

WHITE ONLY	Regular-mail envelopes must be **white**.[2]
NOTHING ON IT	Glitter, stickers, lipstick, fragrance, stains, crayon or marker, or anything oily: the mail may be rejected. Write in pen, pencil or type.[2]
PHOTOCOPIED	Regular mail, photos included, is **photocopied**. They get the copy. It is handed out Monday through Friday, except holidays.[2]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	All publications must come from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore. Hardcover only from the publisher or a book club. They may keep 3 magazines, 1 newspaper and 5 books.[2]
PACKAGES	Every package needs approval first.[2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	Outgoing mail goes in the mailbox unsealed. It is inspected, read and sealed by staff.[2]
LEGAL MAIL	Special mail is opened in front of them.[2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. It goes to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines, Iowa (see the Money tab).[2]

Sources

1. CAA-5267.09F, Inmate Visiting Regulations (December 22, 2025) bop.gov/locations/institutions/caa/caa_visit.pdf
2. USP Canaan Inmate Information Handbook (revised April 2022) bop.gov/locations/institutions/caa/caa_ao-handbook.pdf