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: USP TUCSON

U.S. Penitentiary · Tucson, AZ · Phone 520-663-5000

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
USP (main prison)	Friday	5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
USP (main prison)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Satellite camp	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	The same days and hours as general population, but only one day a week, for two hours. Non-contact.	Same hours as above

On weekends and holidays, visitors are not processed before 8:15 a.m. or after 2:00 p.m. Visits end at 3:00 p.m. The rules give no processing cutoff for the Friday evening visit, so arrive early.

The visiting rules give no regular general-population visiting days other than Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. (Monday and Tuesday evening hours are for pre-trial and holdover inmates only.)[1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. The handbook is from **January 2017** and the visiting rules are from **September 8, 2020**. They disagree on some points. The handbook says visitors may not be in the parking lots before **8:00 a.m.** on weekends and holidays; the rules say visitors are not processed before 8:15 a.m. The handbook says an inmate may have up to **12 visitors** on the approved list; the rules say up to **30 visitors**, no more than 10 of them friends. Go by the newer rules and call 520-663-5000 before you drive.

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

HOW MANY PEOPLE	At the USP: no more than **3 adults (16 and older) and 3 children** (babies not counted), 6 people in all, at one time. At the camp: no more than **3 visitors**, babies not counted. More people need approval from Unit Management first. [1]

ID	Everyone **18 or older** needs valid government photo ID: a driver's license, military ID, passport, tribal ID from a federally recognized tribe, or state or local ID card. Mexican consulate matricula cards are **not** accepted. A birth certificate is accepted as ID for ages 16 to 18. Expired or altered ID is refused. [1]
SCREENING	Everyone walks through the **metal detector**. Visitors can be chosen at random for a **drug-detection (ION) scan** of pants pockets, waist, cuffs and shoes, not hands. A positive reading does not always mean you are turned away; the Warden or a designee decides. You get a hand stamp, checked under black light when you go in and out. Metal plates, pins or a pacemaker: bring a doctor's paper. [1]
MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	No more than **$25.00**, in bills of **$5.00 or less**. You may buy food for them, but you may never give them money. All food must be eaten before you leave the room, and you may not share food or drinks with them. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	A clear change purse (8 inches or less high and wide), the vending money, photo ID and essential medication (staff hold it and give only the dose needed for the visit). Car keys go in a lock box at the front lobby, and you get a numbered chit. Lockers are provided for coats, hats and wallets. No phones, cameras or electronics of any kind. [1]
FOR A BABY	Per child: one clear diaper bag (no bigger than 17 x 13 x 7 inches) with 4 diapers, 1 clear zip bag (6 x 9 inches) of wipes, 1 change of clothes, 2 clear bottles (3/4 full, liquids only), 2 small unopened jars of baby food, 1 receiving blanket, 1 clear cup and 1 plastic serving spoon. [1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	Dress must be business appropriate. No camouflage, plain T-shirts, khaki, orange or green, hospital scrubs, shorts or Capri pants, low-cut, sleeveless, see-through, tube, tank, halter or crop tops, backless clothes, swimsuits, sweat suits, open-toe shoes, hats (except religious headwear), or watches and sports bands. Dresses must not be shorter than the back of the knee, slits included. Underwear is required, and underwire bras are not allowed. [1]
TOUCHING	An embrace and a kiss when the visit starts and again when it ends. No open-mouth kissing. No sitting on laps. They may hold their own children aged 2 and under. Children under 12 may sit next to them. [1]
WHO SUPERVISES CHILDREN	They are responsible for how their children behave. If they do not supervise their children, the visit can be ended. [1]
VISITS CAN BE LIMITED	The handbook says a person may be kept from visiting prior victims of sex offenses by the inmate, children who are not adequately supervised, and others the sex offender management coordinator considers inappropriate. For people with a Walsh Act sex-offense assignment involving a minor, the Case Manager approves visits, they sit close to the officer's station, and they are seated away from children. [2]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	The USP visiting room holds **196** people and the camp room holds **100**. When it is full, visits are ended based on **how far the visitor drove** and how long they have been in the room. [1]
PARKING	No campers, RVs or tractor trailers in the lot without the Warden's written approval. They may be towed at the owner's expense. Once you are checked in, you cannot go back to your car or the visit is ended. [1]

WHAT THEY WEAR	At the USP, they are visually searched going in and out, and change into a jumpsuit and footwear that staff give them. At the camp, they wear issued clothing and are pat searched. [1]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Your loved one gets a **Visitor Information Questionnaire** (the rules call it BPS-629.052; the same paper is called **BP-A0629** elsewhere in the rules) and a Visitor Information Handout. **They** mail it to you. If they have no money, the counselor mails it at government cost.
2. Fill it out, sign the release authorization, and send it back to their **Unit Counselor** with **a copy of your valid photo ID**. Nothing happens until the counselor has all of it. If you are under 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign.
3. The counselor runs a criminal background check (NCIC). If you have a conviction, the Unit Manager reviews it. For former federal inmates, the Warden decides.
4. The counselor tells them who was approved. **They** tell you. Do not drive until you are approved.
5. The list holds up to **30 visitors**, no more than **10** of them friends or associates (the handbook says 12; see above). Friends must have known them before prison unless the Warden approves an exception.
6. They can change the list **once every three months**. Visitors approved at another prison must apply again.
7. If they are only passing through (holdover), approval can take 15 working days.

Fill out the visiting form for Tucson

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

FROM I-10	Take I-10 exit 269 south onto Wilmot Road. The complex's FCI is about 1-1/2 miles south of I-10 on the east side of the road. The USP and the satellite camp are about one mile further south, on the west side. The USP and camp address is 9300 S. Wilmot Road, Tucson, Arizona 85756, phone (520) 663-5000.
AIR, TAXI (2020 LIST)	Tucson International Airport is about seven miles west. Taxis and shuttles listed in the rules: Allstate Cab (520) 798-1111, Yellow Cab (520) 624-6611, Airport Shuttle (520) 889-1000. These phone numbers are from the 2020 rules and may have changed.

Street address for your GPS: 9300 South Wilmot Road, Tucson, Az 85756. [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.

USP TUCSON

Rules dated **9/8/2020** (6 years old)

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

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

Skirts and dresses	Dresses must reach back of knee incl. slits (0 inches above knee).
Shorts	No shorts except children under 12.
Colors to avoid	No khaki-colored clothing. No green-colored clothing. No orange-colored clothing.
Leggings, spandex	No skin-tight clothing.
Bras and metal	No underwire bras, garter belts, or large metal buttons.
Camouflage, military	No camouflage clothing. No officer uniforms with patches resembling BOP insignia.
Shoes	No open-toe shoes; shoes need heel or strap. No slipper-type shoes, shower shoes, or flip-flops.
Children	Children under 12 may wear shorts.

ALL 31 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Dresses must reach back of knee incl. slits (0 inches above knee).
  BOP wording: "If the visitor chooses to wear a dress, the length of the"
- No shorts except children under 12.
  BOP wording: "Shorts will not be permitted unless on a"
- No sleeveless clothing, tank tops, or cap sleeves.
  BOP wording: "Low cut (e.g., V-neck) shirts or dresses, sleeveless,"
- No low-cut or V-neck shirts or dresses.
  BOP wording: "Low cut (e.g., V-neck) shirts or dresses, sleeveless,"
- No crop tops.
  BOP wording: "see-through clothing, tube tops, tank tops, halter tops, crop"
- No tube tops, halter tops, or backless clothing.
  BOP wording: "see-through clothing, tube tops, tank tops, halter tops, crop"
- No see-through clothing.
  BOP wording: "see-through clothing, tube tops, tank tops, halter tops, crop"
- No skin-tight clothing.
  BOP wording: "suggestive or revealing nature (e.g., skin-tight clothing etc.)"
- No swim suits.
  BOP wording: "tops, cap sleeves, backless clothing, swim suits, sweat suits,"

- No sweat suits.
  BOP wording: "tops, cap sleeves, backless clothing, swim suits, sweat suits,"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki-colored clothing.
  BOP wording: "plain T-shirts, khaki, orange or green colored clothing,"
- No green-colored clothing.
  BOP wording: "plain T-shirts, khaki, orange or green colored clothing,"
- No orange-colored clothing.
  BOP wording: "plain T-shirts, khaki, orange or green colored clothing,"
- No camouflage clothing.
  BOP wording: "visitors are prohibited against wearing camouflage clothing,"
- No officer uniforms with patches resembling BOP insignia.
  BOP wording: "officer uniforms (patches in similarity to Bureau of Prisons"

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- Undergarments are required for admission.
  BOP wording: "HOWEVER UNDERGARMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION."
- No underwire bras, garter belts, or large metal buttons.
  BOP wording: "Undergarments containing metal (i.e. underwire bra) are not"
- No excessive jewelry; no watches or electronic sports bands.
  BOP wording: "Wrist watches/timepieces/electronic sports bands of any sort are not authorized."

SHOES

- No open-toe shoes; shoes need heel or strap.
  BOP wording: "Shoes must have a heel or be able to strap to the foot."
- No slipper-type shoes, shower shoes, or flip-flops.
  BOP wording: "open toe shoes, shower shoes or flip-flops are not permitted."

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats, bandanas or scarves.
  BOP wording: "With the exception of religious headgear, hats,"
- Religious headgear allowed.
  BOP wording: "Only religious head wear may be worn."
- No overcoats.
  BOP wording: "Sundresses, overcoats and excessive jewelry are"

CHILDREN

- Children under 12 may wear shorts.
  BOP wording: "child under the age of twelve (12)."

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No gang-related attire, including sagging pants.
  BOP wording: "No gang related attire or fashions will be"

- No plain T-shirts.
  BOP wording: "plain T-shirts, khaki, orange or green colored clothing,"
- No hospital scrubs, bib overalls, Capri pants, or break-away pants.
  BOP wording: "hospital scrubs, shorts or Capri style pants, bib overalls,"
- No sundresses.
  BOP wording: "Sundresses, overcoats and excessive jewelry are"
- Attire must be business appropriate, conservative and professional.
  BOP wording: "The attire worn must be business appropriate (i.e."

IF THEY SAY NO

- Provocative or scantily clad attire is reason to deny visiting.
  BOP wording: "Excessively provocative or scantily clad attire is reason to deny and/or preclude visiting."
- Operations Lieutenant makes final determination.
  BOP wording: "The front lobby officer will contact the Operations"

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
USP Tucson
P.O. Box 24550
Tucson, Az 85734

The handbook asks that the **register number and housing unit** be on the envelope so mail gets to them faster. Ask your loved one for their unit. [2]

Use the P.O. Box only. Never mail to the street address (9300 South Wilmot Road, Tucson, Az 85756).

MAIL DAYS	First-class mail is handed out Monday through Friday, except holidays, by the evening officer in each housing unit. No weekend or holiday mail service. [2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	At a high-security prison they may not seal outgoing letters, and staff may read them. Their return address must show their committed name, register number and the prison address. [2]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	Hardcover books and newspapers only from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore. At a high-security prison, softcover books also only from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore. [2]
PACKAGES	Every package needs approval before it is sent. [2]
LEGAL MAIL	Opened in front of them. It must show the sender's name, title and address, and say "Special Mail - Open only in the presence of the inmate" or similar. Without that, staff may open and read it as ordinary mail. [2]
SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM LIMITS	Because this is a Sex Offender Management Program prison, the handbook says there are limits on property, mail and correspondence for all inmates. They may also be barred from writing to victims, children being groomed, or other sex offenders. [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. It goes to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines, Iowa (see the Money tab). [2]

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

Sources

1. TCX 5267.09, Visiting Regulations, Complex Supplement (September 8, 2020) bop.gov/locations/institutions/tcp/tcp_visit.pdf
2. USP Tucson Admission and Orientation Handbook (updated January 2017) bop.gov/locations/institutions/tcp/tcp_ao-handbook.pdf