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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: FCI BENNETTSVILLE

Federal Correctional Institution · Bennettsville, SC · Phone 843-454-8200

VISIT CARD · CUT OUT AND KEEP IN THE CAR

WHEN

Friday

The visiting rules list no regular visiting days except Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday and f...[1]

HOURS

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday: visitors are processed from 5:00 p.m.[1]

WHO CAN COME

5 visitors

No more than 5 visitors in the visiting room at one time.[1]

BRING

valid driver's license, government or state photo ID card, or passport

A valid driver's license, government or state photo ID card, or passport.[2]

CALL FIRST

843-454-8200

Call before you drive, every time.

THE BOP'S OWN PAPERS DISAGREE. Bennettsville's visiting rules are from **July 1, 2013**, and the handbook has no date. They mostly agree, but on small things they do not: the rules allow **4 diapers** per child and the handbook says **5**. The rules also say visits are ended by how long a visitor has been in the room, while an attachment adds weather, how often you visit and how far you traveled. These papers are about 13 years old. **Call 843-454-8200 before you drive.**[1]

BEFORE YOU GO: GET ON THE LIST

1. Your loved one gives you the **Visitor Information Sheet** and the visiting rules. The rules give no form number for it.
2. You fill out the sheet and **sign the release authorization form**, then **you** return both to their Unit Counselor. Nothing happens until the counselor has them.
3. The counselor runs an NCIC criminal background check. Immediate family listed in the pre-sentence report are added after that check. Friends need to have known them before prison, unless the Warden makes an exception.
4. The counselor tells them who was approved or denied. **They** tell you. Do not drive until you are approved.
5. The list normally holds up to **20 people**. To change it, they send an Inmate Request to Staff Member form to the Unit Team.
6. New arrivals get **no social visits in the first 72 hours**. After that, until the list is checked, only immediate family may visit. Transferred from another federal prison? The approved list is kept unless something changes.
7. Someone not on the list needs a special visit, requested by your loved one at least **72 hours** ahead. These are held to a minimum.[1]

AT THE DOOR

SCREENING	Everyone must pass the **walk-through metal detector**. Visitors can also be pat searched. If a medical condition keeps you from clearing it, send a signed doctor's note at least **2 weeks before** the visit. Refusing a search means no visit.[2]
MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	Bring no more than **$25.00**, which is put on a **Debitek card** for the vending machines. No cash is allowed past the front lobby. Your loved one cannot go near the vending machines.[1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	Only a wallet or small clear plastic bag, the Debitek card, a coat in cold weather, and essential medication (only the amount you need for the visit; staff hold it).[1]
FOR A BABY	Per child: 4 diapers, 1 unopened pack of wipes, 1 change of clothes, 2 clear baby bottles with contents, 2 small clear jars of baby food, 1 receiving blanket, 1 see-through cup and 1 baby spoon. The handbook says up to 5 diapers.[1]
NOT ALLOWED IN	Tobacco, food, toys, and anything for your loved one. Nothing can be given to them. Leave other things locked in your car or in the lobby locker.[1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No camouflage, khaki or green. No sleeveless tops, sun dresses, sheer or low-cut tops, or halter tops. No shorts for anyone over 10. Skirts and dresses no shorter than the bend of the knee. No spandex, form-fitting clothes, pants with holes, or sweat suits. No hats or caps (religious headwear is allowed). Shoes with a strap around the back of the ankle; **no flip-flops or shower shoes**.[1]
TOUCHING	A kiss, embrace or handshake only when the visit starts and when it ends. Staff give one warning, then the visit can be ended.[2]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	The FCI visiting room holds **171** people. When it is full, visits are ended starting with the visitors who have been in the room longest.[1]
PARKING	No loitering in the parking lot or on the grounds. No campers, RVs or tractor trailers left overnight.[1]

ALL VISITING DAYS AND HOURS

WHERE	DAYS	HOURS
FCI (main prison) and satellite camp	Friday	5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
FCI (main prison) and satellite camp	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Camp inmates held in the Special Housing Unit (SHU)	Wednesday only	9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Friday: visitors are processed from 5:00 p.m. and not after 7:00 p.m. **Saturday, Sunday and holidays:** processing starts at 8:30 a.m. and stops at **2:00 p.m.** Staff handle visits to the SHU one case at a time.[1]

The visiting rules list no regular visiting days except Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays (plus Wednesday for camp inmates in the SHU). Holidays that make a three-day weekend are open to all inmates at the FCI and camp.

GETTING THERE

From Florence	Interstate 95 north to Highway 38. Go northwest on Highway 38 toward Bennettsville. Follow SC-38 BR / SC-9 BR, then SC-9 N, and turn right onto Muckerman Road.
From Columbia	Interstate 20 north toward Florence. Take US-401 exit 131 toward SC-403 / Timmonsville / Darlington. Turn left onto US-401, follow it to SC-9, and turn right onto Muckerman Road.
From Charlotte	US-74 east toward NC-27. Slight right onto US-52. Turn left onto Powe St. / US-1 / SC-9 E. Follow SC-9 E and turn left onto Muckerman Road.
Lodging and rides (2013 list)	Holiday Inn Express (843) 479-1700; Bennettsville Motel (843) 479-3822; Marlboro Inn (843) 479-4051. Thomas Taxi (843) 479-6811; Brockington Taxi (843) 454-0400. Greyhound in Florence: (843) 662-8407. These numbers are from 2013; call before you rely on them.

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 BENNETTSVILLE

Rules dated **July 1, 2013** (13 years old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/ben/ben_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/ben/ben_visit_spn.pdf)

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

These rules contradict themselves. When two rules disagree, dress by the stricter one.

Skirts and dresses	Skirts/dresses and slits must not be above bend of knee (0 inches).
Shorts	No shorts, skorts or culottes for visitors over age ten.
Colors to avoid	No khaki clothing. No green-colored clothing.
Leggings, spandex	No spandex or leotards. No form-fitting or 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.
Shoes	Open-toed shoes allowed only with a strap around back of ankle. No flip flops, shower shoes, or shoes without an ankle strap.
Children	Dress code (including shorts ban) applies to visitors above age ten.

ALL 24 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts/dresses and slits must not be above bend of knee (0 inches).
  BOP wording: "Skirts or dresses are allowed for female visitors, but must not be above the bend of the knee."
- No shorts, skorts or culottes for visitors over age ten.
  BOP wording: "permitted to wear shorts, skorts, or kulaks."
- No sleeveless shirts/blouses, for men or women.
  BOP wording: "Male visitors will use the same discretion in attire regarding sleeveless shirts."
- No low-cut blouses or clothing.
  BOP wording: "sheer or low-cut blouses,"
- Tops must cover stomach, chest/breasts and back.
  BOP wording: "Tops should cover the upper body, including stomach, chest/breasts, and back."
- No halter tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops or backless clothing.
  BOP wording: "halter tops, or spaghetti strapped shirts will not be permitted"
- No sheer or see-through clothing.
  BOP wording: "Visitors are not allowed to wear low-cut or see-through clothing,"
- No form-fitting or skin-tight clothing.

BOP wording: "form fitting clothing or pants with holes are not permitted during visiting."

- No spandex or leotards.
  BOP wording: "Spandex, leotards, form fitting clothing or pants with"
- No pants with holes.
  BOP wording: "pants with holes are not permitted during visiting."
- No jogging or sweat suits.
  BOP wording: "Jogging or sweat suits are not allowed to be worn."

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki clothing.
  BOP wording: "Visitors are not allowed to wear camouflage, khaki, or green-colored clothing."
- No green-colored clothing.
  BOP wording: "Visitors are not allowed to wear camouflage, khaki, or green-colored clothing."
- No camouflage clothing.
  BOP wording: "Visitors are not allowed to wear camouflage, khaki, or green-colored clothing."

SHOES

- Open-toed shoes allowed only with a strap around back of ankle.
  BOP wording: "Open toed shoes that have a strap around the back of the ankle may be worn."
- No flip flops, shower shoes, or shoes without an ankle strap.
  BOP wording: "Flip flops and shower shoes are prohibited from entering into the institution."

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats, caps, bandanas or other head gear for adults.
  BOP wording: "Hats, caps, bandanas or any other type of head gear is not permitted on any adult visitor."
- Religious headwear allowed: kufis, yarmulkes, turbans, crowns, headbands, scarves, head wraps.
  BOP wording: "The exception is religious headwear identified as the following: kufis, yarmulkes, turbans, crowns, and headbands,"

CHILDREN

- Dress code (including shorts ban) applies to visitors above age ten.
  BOP wording: "Visitors above the age of ten will be held to the following dress code"

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No inappropriate slogans or depictions on clothing.
  BOP wording: "Inappropriate slogans and/or depictions on clothing are prohibited."
- No sun dresses.
  BOP wording: "Sun dresses, sleeveless shirts/blouses, sheer or low-cut blouses, halter tops, or"
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
  BOP wording: "Shoes, for safety reasons, must be worn at all times by all visitors."

IF THEY SAY NO

- Visitors in inappropriate clothing will not be permitted to enter.
  BOP wording: "If it is determined the clothing is inappropriate, the visitor will not be permitted"
- Front Entrance Officer decides; Duty Officer/Lieutenant makes final call if doubtful.

BOP wording: "Initial determination whether clothing is appropriate will be made by the Front"

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. _____-___
FCI Bennettsville
P.O. Box 52020
Bennettsville, SC 29512

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

Put their name, register number **and unit** on the envelope. The handbook says this helps mail reach them quickly.[2]

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

THE MAIL RULES

MAIL DAYS	Mail is handed out Monday through Friday by the evening-watch officer. No mail on weekends or holidays.[2]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	Paperbacks, magazines and newspaper clippings must come **only from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore**. They may keep 5 books, 5 magazines (no more than three months old) and 5 newspapers (no more than three weeks old).[2]
NUMBER OF LETTERS	There is no limit on how many letters they receive unless it becomes an unreasonable burden.[2]
LEGAL MAIL	Opened by the unit team in front of them. The front of the envelope must say "SPECIAL MAIL ONLY TO BE OPENED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE INMATE" and the sender must be named. Without that, staff may read it as ordinary mail.[2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	Outgoing letters are left unsealed and staff check them. Each needs a TRULINCS-printed label, their name, register number and return address.[2]
REJECTED ITEMS	The Warden can reject a publication that threatens security or could help a crime. Sexually explicit material that shows nudity is returned.[2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. The handbook sends checks and money orders to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines, Iowa (P.O. Box 474701). Money can also go by Western Union or MoneyGram (see the Money tab).[2]

Sources

1. BEN 5267.08G, Visiting Regulations (July 1, 2013) bop.gov/locations/institutions/ben/ben_visit.pdf
2. FCI Bennettsville Admission and Orientation Handbook (undated; file created September 2013) bop.gov/locations/institutions/ben/ben_ao-handbook.pdf