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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 BIG SPRING

Federal Correctional Institution · Big Spring, TX · Phone 432-466-2300

VISIT CARD · CUT OUT AND KEEP IN THE CAR

WHEN

Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays

The visiting rules list no regular visiting days except Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays.[1]

HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Visitors cannot arrive before 8:00 a.m.[1]

VISITS

1 point

The handbook says each visit costs 1 point.[2]

WHO CAN COME

5 visitors at one time, children and infants included

No more than 5 visitors at one time, children and infants included.[1]

BRING

16 or older

Everyone 16 or older needs a valid, current government-issued photo ID.[1]

CALL FIRST

432-466-2300

Call before you drive, every time.

BEFORE YOU GO: GET ON THE LIST

1. During admission and orientation, they give their counselor the names of immediate family (spouse, children, parents, brothers, sisters, step-parents and foster parents). Only immediate family may visit until the permanent list is made.
2. For each other person, the counselor gives them a **questionnaire and information release form (BP-629)**. They **mail it to you**. The visiting rules say **you** return it to the Unit Team. (The handbook calls the form "BP-IS-139.")
3. The Unit Team checks you through the pre-sentence report, probation, local police and similar sources. Friends must have known them before prison unless the Warden approves an exception.
4. The Unit Team tells them who was approved or denied. **They** tell you and send you the visiting rules. Do not drive until you are approved.
5. They can ask to add visitors at any time. People who are not approved are not allowed in, except immediate family.
6. Special one-time visits (clergy, employers, sponsors) are set up by the Unit Team and approved in advance by the Warden.[1]

AT THE DOOR

SCREENING	Everyone clears the **walk-through metal detector** and puts belongings through the **x-ray machine**. Visitors may also be checked with an ION drug scanner and pat searched. Pacemakers or other medical devices need medical papers, and you may then be pat searched. Staff stamp your hand with an ultraviolet stamp and check it when you enter and leave. Camp visitors do not need the hand stamp or metal detector.[1]
MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	Up to **$20.00 per adult**, in $1 and $5 bills. Only items from the visiting-room vending machines are allowed as food, except baby bottles and baby food. Everything must be eaten before you leave. You cannot put money on their account.[1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	One small (about half-gallon size) clear, see-through purse or zip-lock bag. It is opened and searched. Cell phones are not allowed. Lockers in the front lobby are for things that cannot come in, but no large amounts of cash go in the lockers.[1]
FOR A BABY	Baby bottles with sealed, pre-mixed milk or formula in the original container, and baby food, are allowed.[1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No sleeveless, strapless, bare-back, tank or halter tops, midriff shirts, see-through, tight or form-fitting clothes, or deep V-necks. No miniskirts or wrap skirts; shorts and skirts must not be 2 inches above the knee (the handbook says above the knee). No caps, hats or scarves, hooded or knee-length coats, spandex, athletic shorts or sweat suits, jerseys, swimwear, slippers or open-toed shoes. **No khaki or camouflage**, no gang symbols or offensive writing. No underwire bras or body piercings that will not clear the detector.[1]
TOUCHING	A short kiss and hug at the beginning and end of the visit. The handbook says holding hands is the only other contact allowed.[1]
WAITING OUTSIDE	No one may wait in the parking lot or on the grounds, including anyone who gave you a ride and children and pets. Only certified service dogs are allowed.[1]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	The visiting room holds **250** people. Staff ask for volunteers to leave first. Then they look at people with an address within 50 miles and at how often they visit, and end the visits of at least five groups.[1]
WHERE TO PARK	Main-prison visitors park on the north side of the FCI lot. Camp visitors park behind the Camp Visiting Room (Building 300), not in front of it or in the main lot.[1]

ALL VISITING DAYS AND HOURS

WHERE	DAYS	HOURS
FCI (main prison) and satellite camp	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Detention or segregation (Special Housing Unit)	Same rules as general population, but visits are ordinarily 2 hours long and are held by video monitor	Regular visiting hours

Visitors cannot arrive before 8:00 a.m. and must arrive before 2:00 p.m. or they will not be allowed to visit. You cannot leave and come back on the same day.[1]

The visiting rules list no regular visiting days except Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays.

GETTING THERE

Address	FCI Big Spring, 1900 Simler Avenue, Big Spring, Texas 79720. It is inside the city limits on the west side of town.
Traveling east on Interstate 20	Take Exit 174. Turn left on Hwy 80 / Bus 20. In one mile turn right onto Airbase Road, which becomes Simler Drive. Follow the signs.
Traveling west	Stay straight on Hwy 80 / Bus 20. In one mile turn right onto Airbase Road, which becomes Simler Drive. Follow the signs.
Taxi	Big Spring Taxi Service. The visiting rules say hotels and restaurants are available in the area.

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 BIG SPRING

Rules dated **December 21, 2022** (4 years old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/big/big_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/big/big_visit_sp.pdf)

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

Skirts and dresses	Shorts/skirts not 2 inches or more above knee, standing or sitting.
Shorts	No athletic shorts; other shorts must meet the 2-inch length rule.
Colors to avoid	No khaki-colored clothing for visitors age 10 and up.
Leggings, spandex	No Lycra or spandex clothing. No tight or form-fitting clothing.
Bras and metal	No underwire bras, body piercings or metal that sets off detector.
Camouflage, military	No camouflage clothing for visitors age 10 and up.
Shoes	No open-toed shoes. No shower shoes or flip-flops.
Children	Clothing list applies to children 4 and over; colors to age 10+.

ALL 25 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Shorts/skirts not 2 inches or more above knee, standing or sitting.
  BOP wording: "Shorts or skirts may not be worn when they are 2" inches above the knees when standing or sitting;"
- No athletic shorts; other shorts must meet the 2-inch length rule.
  BOP wording: "Athletic shorts/sweat pants (cloth material)/wind suits; Athletic Jerseys"
- No sleeveless shirts, blouses or dresses, and no tank tops.
  BOP wording: "Sleeveless, strapless or bareback shirts, blouses, or dresses;"
- No deep V-neck blouses, shirts or dresses.
  BOP wording: "Deep v-neck blouses, shirts or dresses;"
- No midriff shirts; shirts tucked in or belted for ages 4+.
  BOP wording: "Halter tops or midriff shirts. Shirts will be tucked in or belted for all visitors ages 4 and over;"
- No strapless or bareback tops/dresses, no halter tops.
  BOP wording: "Sleeveless, strapless or bareback shirts, blouses, or dresses;"
- No see-through clothing, even over another shirt; no fishnet.
  BOP wording: "Tight, form-fitting or see through clothing. This includes see through shirts with a shirt underneath;"
- No tight or form-fitting clothing.
  BOP wording: "Tight, form-fitting or see through clothing. This includes see through shirts with a shirt underneath;"
- No Lycra or spandex clothing.
  BOP wording: "Lycra or spandex clothing;"

- No swimwear.
  BOP wording: "material)/wind suits , At hl etic Jerseys , swimwear , slippers , or"
- No slippers.
  BOP wording: "material)/wind suits , At hl etic Jerseys , swimwear , slippers , or"
- No athletic shorts, sweat pants, wind suits, or athletic jerseys.
  BOP wording: "Athletic shorts/sweat pants (cloth material)/wind suits; Athletic Jerseys"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki-colored clothing for visitors age 10 and up.
  BOP wording: "Any clothing Khaki or Camouflage in color for visitors age IO and up;"
- No camouflage clothing for visitors age 10 and up.
  BOP wording: "Any clothing Khaki or Camouflage in color for visitors age IO and up;"

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- No underwire bras, body piercings or metal that sets off detector.
  BOP wording: "body piercing , excess metal on clothing, and under wires in bras"

SHOES

- No open-toed shoes.
  BOP wording: "Shower shoes, "flip-flop" type shoes, or any o pen toed shoes;"
- No shower shoes or flip-flops.
  BOP wording: "Shower shoes, "flip-flop" type shoes, or any o pen toed shoes;"

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No caps, hats, or scarves of any kind.
  BOP wording: "Caps, hats, and scarves of any kind;"
- No coats, sweaters or jackets with hoods attached.
  BOP wording: "Long coats, sweaters and jackets that have hoods attached or extend below the knee;"
- No long coats/jackets below knee; jacket can't cover banned shirt.
  BOP wording: "A jacket cannot cover up an unauthorized shirt;"

CHILDREN

- Clothing list applies to children 4 and over; colors to age 10+.
  BOP wording: "CLOTHING NOT AUTHORIZED (TO INCLUDE CHILDREN AGES 4 AND OVER}:"

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No gang symbols or sexual/offensive language on clothing.
  BOP wording: "Clothing of any type which would symbolize c lub or gang activity or gang affiliation;"
- No miniskirts, wrap-around skirts, or skirts with long slits.
  BOP wording: "Dresses, skirts, or mini-skirts with long slits in the middle or s ide;"
- No revealing, immodest or provocative clothing.
  BOP wording: "Persons who dress immodestly or provocatively may be"

IF THEY SAY NO

- Improperly dressed visitors may be denied or have visit terminated.
  BOP wording: "Operations Li eutena n t and/or IDO to determine whether to deny or"

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 Big Spring
1900 Simler Ave
Big Spring, TX 79720

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

The BOP lists the same street address (1900 Simler Ave) for inmate mail. Put their name and register number first. Because the prison is closing, call 432-466-2300 before you mail anything to confirm they are still there.[2]

> **USE EXACTLY THIS ADDRESS.** Big Spring has no P.O. Box for inmate mail.

THE MAIL RULES

MAIL DAYS	Mail is ordinarily delivered Monday through Friday. Weekend and holiday mail service is usually not provided.[2]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	At a low-security prison like Big Spring, softcover books can come from any source. **Hardcover books and newspapers must come from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore.**[2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	At a low-security prison, outgoing letters may be sealed and are sent unopened. The envelope needs their name, register number and the full return address.[2]
LEGAL MAIL	Opened in front of them by a staff member. The front of the envelope must say "Special Mail" (open only in the presence of the inmate) and the sender must be named. Without that, staff may open and read it as ordinary mail.[2]
OPENED AND CHECKED	General mail is opened and checked for contraband and funds.[2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. The handbook sends money to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines, Iowa (see the Money tab).[2]

Sources

1. BIG 5267.09D, Visiting Regulations (December 21, 2022) bop.gov/locations/institutions/big/big_visit.pdf
2. FCI Big Spring Inmate Information Handbook (2023) bop.gov/locations/institutions/big/big_ao-handbook.pdf