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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 OAKDALE I

Federal Correctional Institution · Oakdale, LA · Phone 318-335-4070

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
FCI Oakdale I (the handbook lists it together with the Federal Prison Camp)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Processing of visitors stops one hour before visits end (visits end at 3:00 p.m.). The visiting rules say all times are Central time. The handbook says do not enter the grounds, **including the parking lot, before 8:00 a.m.** or you will be asked to leave.

Neither BOP document lists any weekday visiting. Special and legal visits outside these hours must be set up in advance and approved by the warden. [1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. Both Oakdale documents are undated or old. The visiting rules are from **April 1, 2014**; the handbook is undated (PDF posted 2026). Both give Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays, 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for this prison. They differ on one thing: the rules say each inmate gets 6 visit points a month, and the handbook does not mention points. The handbook gives different last-Saturday-of-the-month hours for Oakdale II only. **Call 318-335-4070 before you drive.**

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

HOW MANY VISITS	The 2014 rules say each inmate in the FCI gets **6 points on the first of each month**, and each visit costs **1 point**. Federal holidays are not deducted. Points do not carry over. The rules are old; ask whether they still apply. [1]
HOW MANY PEOPLE	Only **5 people** (adults and children together) can visit at one time. More may be allowed only by the Operations Lieutenant. [2]
WHO CAN VISIT	Immediate family (mother, father, sister, brother, spouse and children) plus **10 friends or other relatives**. The warden decides on anyone with a questionable background. [2]

ID	Photo ID that has your signature, such as a driver's license. Anyone who arrives without proper ID is not let in. [2]
CHILDREN	Children under 16 must come with their parent or legal guardian who is on the approved list. If another approved adult brings them, that adult needs written approval from the parent or guardian. Visitors who are 16 or 17 and alone need a parent or guardian signature on the Visitor Information Form. [2]
SCREENING	Everyone walks through the **metal detector**. A positive reading means a hand wand. The handbook also lists a positive ION test as a reason to be turned away. Visitors get an ultraviolet hand stamp that is checked when they enter and leave. [1]
MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	A small clear coin purse with no more than **$30.00 in coins**. No paper money. You cannot leave money for their account, and you cannot give or leave items for them. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	No handbags, purses, shopping bags, food, gum or tobacco. Keep everything else in your car. Only the prescription medicine you need during the visit is allowed, and the officer holds it. **Watches are not allowed in the visiting room.** [2]
FOR A BABY	1 clear diaper bag (no bigger than 12 by 12 by 4 inches), 2 disposable diapers, 1 container of baby wipes, 24 oz. of formula mix pre-mixed in bottles, 1 unopened plastic jar of baby food, 1 plastic serving spoon. [2]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No sleeveless blouses, tank tops, halter tops, shorts, shower shoes, slippers, open-toe or open-back shoes (all shoes need a strap), see-through or low-cut clothes, clothes showing the middle, tan or fatigue-colored clothing, dresses or skirts above the knee, spandex or tight clothes, hats, hoods, scarves or wigs (except medical or religious), sagging or very loose clothes, sweat suits or wind suits. [2]
TOUCHING	Handshake, hug and kiss only at the start and end of the visit. [1]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	Visits end first by volunteering, then by how often the person gets visitors, then visits from **within 100 miles**, and last by first in, first out. [1]
ONCE YOU LEAVE	If you leave the visiting room for any reason, your visit is over for that day. [1]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Your loved one gets the visiting form from their **counselor**. The 2014 rules name it **BP-629(52)** (Visitor Information Form) and mail it to you.
2. Fill it out completely and send it back. The handbook says every visitor, even immediate family, must also fill out a **Request to Visit** form, and a background check is run. An incomplete form means the visit is denied.
3. On the day of your visit you fill out the **Notification to Visitor Form, BP-224(52)**, at the front entrance.
4. Your loved one tells you if you were approved or denied. Do not drive until you are approved.
5. The list holds immediate family plus **10 friends or associates**.

Fill out the visiting form for Oakdale I

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

FROM THE HANDBOOK	The complex is at 1507 E. Whatley Road in Oakdale, Louisiana. Traveling north on Highway 165 into Oakdale, turn right onto Whatley Road. Traveling south on Highway 165 into Oakdale, turn left onto Whatley Road, then turn right at the entrance to the Complex. The handbook says the last institution on the left is Oakdale II, so Oakdale I is before it. For public transportation, the handbook gives Al Rides, Oakdale, at 318-491-3185.
FROM THE 2014 VISITING RULES	The complex is on the north side of Oakdale, about one mile east of Highway 165 on Whatley Road. From Alexandria, take Highway 165 South and turn left on Whatley Road just inside the city limits. From Lake Charles, take Highway 165 North and turn right on Whatley Road.

Street address for your GPS: 1507 East Whatley Road, Oakdale, La 71463. [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.

FCI OAKDALE I

Rules dated **April 1, 2014** (12 years old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/oad/oax_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/oad/oax_visit_sp.pdf)

12 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	Dresses/skirts not above knee (0 in.); attachment says not above mid-thigh.
Shorts	No shorts.
Colors to avoid	No tan or khaki slacks or shirts.
Leggings, spandex	No spandex. No tight-fitting or contoured attire.
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 fatigue-colored slacks or shirts.
Shoes	No open-toe or open-back shoes. No shower shoes, slippers, or house shoes.
Children	Not in the written rules.

ALL 24 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Dresses/skirts not above knee (0 in.); attachment says not above mid-thigh.
  BOP wording: "Dresses or skirts above knees"
- No shorts.
  BOP wording: "No sleeveless blouses, tank tops, halter tops No shorts"
- No sleeveless blouses or tank tops.
  BOP wording: "Sleeveless blouses, tank tops, halter tops"
- No low-cut blouses revealing cleavage.
  BOP wording: "See-through clothing or low cut blouses revealing cleavage"
- No clothing exposing the mid-section.
  BOP wording: "Clothing exposing the mid-section"
- No halter tops.
  BOP wording: "Sleeveless blouses, tank tops, halter tops"
- No see-through clothing.
  BOP wording: "See-through clothing or low cut blouses revealing cleavage"
- No tight-fitting or contoured attire.
  BOP wording: "Spandex, tight fitting, contoured type attire"

- No spandex.
  BOP wording: "Spandex, tight fitting, contoured type attire"
- No slippers or house shoes.
  BOP wording: "Shower shoes, slippers, house shoes, open toe, or open back shoe"
- No sweat suits or wind suits.
  BOP wording: "Sweat suits or wind suits"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No tan or khaki slacks or shirts.
  BOP wording: "No tan colored khaki or fatigue colored slacks or shirts"
- No fatigue-colored slacks or shirts.
  BOP wording: "Tan or fatigue colored slacks or shirts"

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- No watches (attachment).
  BOP wording: "Sweat suits, wind suits, or watches"

SHOES

- No open-toe or open-back shoes.
  BOP wording: "Shower shoes, slippers, house shoes, open toe, or open back shoe"
- No shower shoes, slippers, or house shoes.
  BOP wording: "Shower shoes, slippers, house shoes, open toe, or open back shoe"

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No head coverings, hats, caps, or scarves.
  BOP wording: "Head coverings, hoods, hats, caps, scarves, wigs, unless medically"
- Head coverings allowed if medically documented or for religious events.
  BOP wording: "documented or associated with religious events."
- No hoods.
  BOP wording: "Head coverings, hoods, hats, caps, scarves, wigs, unless medically"
- No wigs unless medically documented or religious.
  BOP wording: "Head coverings, hoods, hats, caps, scarves, wigs, unless medically"

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No loose, sagging, or dragging gang-associated apparel.
  BOP wording: "Excessively loose fitting, sagging, or dragging apparel which may appear"
- Visitors must dress appropriately for a business setting.
  BOP wording: "All visitors will be dressed appropriately for a business setting."

IF THEY SAY NO

- Inappropriately dressed visitors will be denied entrance.
  BOP wording: "appropriately for the visiting room, the visitor will be denied entrance"
- Operations Lieutenant decides on questionable attire.
  BOP wording: "be notified and will make the decision whether or not to allow the visitor to"

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
FCI Oakdale I
P.O. Box 5000
Oakdale, La 71463

The handbook asks that the **register number and housing unit** be on the envelope to help mail reach them faster. [2]

Use the P.O. Box only. Never mail to the street address (1507 East Whatley Road, Oakdale, La 71463).

MAIL DAYS	First-class mail is handed out Monday through Friday (not holidays) by the evening-shift officer in each unit. There is usually no weekend or holiday mail. [2]
PACKAGES	Every package needs approval before it is sent. [2]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	At a low-security prison they may get soft-cover books from any source. Hardcover books and newspapers must come straight from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore. [2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	At a low-security prison they may seal outgoing letters. The envelope must show their committed name, register number and the full prison return address. [2]
LEGAL MAIL	Opened in front of them. The envelope must say "Special Mail - Open only in the presence of the inmate" or similar, and must show an accurate return address. Without that wording, staff may open and read it like regular mail. [2]
REJECTED MAIL	The warden can reject mail that threatens security or could help a crime. The sender gets a written notice and can appeal. [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. It goes to the BOP lockbox (see the Money tab). [2]

Books and magazines: at a low security prison, soft-cover books and magazines can come from anyone. Hardcovers only from a publisher or bookstore.

Sources

1. FCC 5267.08F, Visiting Regulations (April 1, 2014) bop.gov/locations/institutions/oad/oax_visit.pdf
2. FCC Oakdale Admission and Orientation Handbook (undated; PDF posted 2026) bop.gov/locations/institutions/oad/oad_ao_handbook.pdf