Printed November 5, 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: FCI PETERSBURG MEDIUM

Federal Correctional Institution · Hopewell, VA · Phone 804-504-7200

VISIT CARD · CUT OUT AND KEEP IN THE CAR

WHEN
Saturday and Sunday
The handbook gives only Saturday and Sunday.[1]

HOURS
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
The handbook gives no arrival cutoff time.[1]

WHO CAN COME
How many people
Children of any age count as an adult toward the number of visitors allowed in the visiting room.[1]

BRING
Photo ID
A valid unexpired state driver's license or state ID card.[1]

CALL FIRST
804-504-7200
Call before you drive, every time.

BEFORE YOU GO: GET ON THE LIST

1. Your loved one gives their unit team the names for their visiting list. The handbook does not name the form (the national visitor form is BP-A0629; not confirmed in the Petersburg handbook).
2. The people on the list must be **cleared** before they can visit.
3. Your loved one tells you who was approved. Do not drive until you are approved.
4. Up to **6 friends, other relatives and associates** plus immediate family.[1]

AT THE DOOR

WHO CAN BE ON THE LIST	Immediate family (father, mother, stepparents, brothers, sisters, wife, children, stepchildren, legal guardian, foster parents or grandparents, checked against the pre-sentence report). A common-law spouse is usually treated as family if the state recognizes it. A total of **6 other relatives, friends and associates** can be added after clearance.[1]
SCREENING	Visitors must clear the **x-ray and metal detector**. A medical condition, oxygen tank or prosthetic needs written documentation and approval from the unit team before the visit. Purses and briefcases may be searched. Use the lockers or leave things in your car.[1]
MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	Cash no more than **$40.00**. You cannot hand them coins or money. Money for their account goes to the lockbox.[1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	A reasonable number of diapers, other infant care items and sanitary napkins. **No outside food, including gum.** The only thing you can give them is food from the visiting room vending machines, and it must be eaten in the room.[1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	Walking shorts or culottes no more than 3 inches above the knee. Skirts within 3 inches of the knee, no high splits. No see-through clothing, tank tops or anything showing the middle or cleavage. No military-style clothing such as camouflage, no spandex or tight clothes, no solid grey sweatpants or sweatshirts, no medical scrubs. No solid khaki or tan. No solid orange at the Medium. Shoes are required: sandals are fine, flip-flops are not.[1]
TOUCHING	Kissing, embracing and a handshake only on arrival and departure. All visits begin and end in the visiting room.[1]
DENIED OR ENDED	Reasons include the wrong day, not on the list, improper clothing, expired ID, contraband, a visiting restriction, rule violations or crowding.[1]

ALL VISITING DAYS AND HOURS

WHERE	DAYS	HOURS
Medium (general population)	Saturday and Sunday	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The handbook gives no arrival cutoff time. Visiting is 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Arrive early and call 804-504-7200 to ask about the last time visitors are let in.[1]

The handbook gives only Saturday and Sunday. It does not list federal holidays or any weekday visiting (unconfirmed). Special visits and family emergencies are set up with the unit manager. The BOP does not link a separate visiting-rules paper for Petersburg, so call 804-504-7200 before you drive.

GETTING THERE

Directions in the handbook (to the Low prison on River Road)	From I-95 North or South, take Exit 54 toward Temple Avenue. Turn right on Temple Avenue and follow it about 3.2 miles. Turn left on River Road and follow it about 3.6 miles. The Low is on the left side of River Road, just outside the sharp right bend. The Medium is at 1060 River Road in Hopewell (BOP address list); the handbook gives no separate directions for it.
From I-295	Take Exit 9B (Fort Lee) onto Oaklawn Boulevard. Go through three lights, then exit right immediately after the Burger King onto VA 144/Temple Avenue. At the first light turn right on River Road and follow it about 3.6 miles.
Taxi and bus	There are no mass transit buses to the prison. Greyhound or Amtrak riders need a taxi. The handbook lists Boulevard Cab Co. at (804) 732-3636 and Yellow Cab of Colonial Heights at (804) 833-3909.

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 PETERSBURG MEDIUM

Rules dated **January 2023** (3 years old) · from the prisoners' handbook; no visiting rules posted

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

Skirts and dresses	Skirts within 3 inches of the knee; no higher slits.
Shorts	Walking shorts or culottes allowed, no more than 3 inches above knee.
Colors to avoid	No solid khaki/tan clothing at Medium or Low. No solid green clothing for Camp visitors. No solid orange clothing at the Medium. No solid grey sweatpants or sweatshirts.
Leggings, spandex	No spandex-type clothing. No tight-fitting apparel.
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. No military-style clothing similar to inmate wear.
Shoes	Sandals OK but no flip-flops; footwear required.
Children	Not in the written rules.

ALL 19 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts within 3 inches of the knee; no higher slits.
  BOP wording: "F. Skirts must be within 3" of the knee. No splits up higher."
- Walking shorts or culottes allowed, no more than 3 inches above knee.
  BOP wording: "A. Visitors (male and female) may wear walking shorts (or culottes) no more than 3" above"
- No tank tops.
  BOP wording: "D. No tank tops or other wear that exposes the midriff or cleavage area."
- No clothing exposing the cleavage area.
  BOP wording: "D. No tank tops or other wear that exposes the midriff or cleavage area."
- No clothing exposing the midriff.
  BOP wording: "D. No tank tops or other wear that exposes the midriff or cleavage area."
- No see-through clothing.
  BOP wording: "B. No see through clothing."
- No tight-fitting apparel.
  BOP wording: "G. No spandex type clothing or other tight fitting apparel."
- No spandex-type clothing.
  BOP wording: "G. No spandex type clothing or other tight fitting apparel."
- No solid grey sweatpants or sweatshirts.
  BOP wording: "H. No solid grey sweatpants or sweatshirts."

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No solid khaki/tan clothing at Medium or Low.
  BOP wording: "I. No solid colored khaki/tan colored clothing at the Medium or Low facility."
- No solid green clothing for Camp visitors.
  BOP wording: "K. No solid green colored clothing for Camp visitors."
- No solid orange clothing at the Medium.
  BOP wording: "J. No solid orange colored clothing at the Medium."
- No solid grey sweatpants or sweatshirts.
  BOP wording: "H. No solid grey sweatpants or sweatshirts."
- No camouflage.
  BOP wording: "C. No military style clothing similar to inmate wear. (i.e. camouflage)"
- No military-style clothing similar to inmate wear.
  BOP wording: "C. No military style clothing similar to inmate wear. (i.e. camouflage)"

SHOES

- Sandals OK but no flip-flops; footwear required.
  BOP wording: "E. Footwear is required. Sandals are acceptable with the exception of flip-flops."

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No medical scrubs.
  BOP wording: "L. No medical scrubs."

IF THEY SAY NO

- Visitors can be denied entry for improper clothing.
  BOP wording: "to the following: incorrect visiting day, visitor is not on the visiting list, improper clothing,"
- Front entrance officer decides; questions go to Operations Lieutenant or CDO.
  BOP wording: "officer is responsible for determining suitable attire."

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 Petersburg Medium
P.O. Box 1000
Petersburg, VA 23804

The envelope, filled in. Their name and number must match the BOP Inmate Locator exactly.[1]

The handbook says to use: their full committed name and register number, Federal Correctional Complex, P.O. Box 1000, Petersburg, VA 23804. **Spell out "Federal Correctional Complex."**[1]

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

THE MAIL RULES

WHITE PAPER, 5 SHEETS	Envelopes and paper must be **white**. General mail must be single-sided 8.5 by 11 paper, no more than **5 sheets** per envelope. No card stock except commercial greeting cards.[1]
REJECTED	Glitter, stickers, lipstick, crayon, marker, oily substances, perfume and cologne. Picture books and catalogs, and sexually explicit photos, are rejected.[1]
NO LABELS	General mail with a label for the address or return address may be rejected.[1]
PHOTOCOPIED	All incoming general mail, including cards and photos, is photocopied (photos in color). Original photos are held 30 days, then destroyed.[1]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	Inmates in the Medium, including its Special Housing Unit, may **not seal** their outgoing general mail. The unit officer seals it when it is collected. Outgoing mail needs TRULINCS labels and no mail service runs on weekends and holidays.[1]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	In the Medium they may only get **soft-cover** books and magazines from an identifiable bookstore, book club or publisher. Books and magazines are limited to five per mailing. Newspapers and hardcover books must come from the publisher, a bookstore or a book club.[1]
PACKAGES	Packages are only for medical devices and release clothing.[1]
LEGAL MAIL	Special mail must say "Special Mail, Only to be Opened in the Presence of the Inmate" and identify the sender. Otherwise staff may open and read it.[1]
MONEY	Never put cash in a letter. Money goes to the BOP lockbox (see the Money tab).[1]

Sources

1. FCC Petersburg Inmate Information Handbook (January 2023) bop.gov/locations/institutions/pem/pem_ao-handbook.pdf