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FEDERAL PRISON GUIDE

VISIT PACKET: FCI SANDSTONE

Federal Correctional Institution · Sandstone, MN · Phone 320-245-2262

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
Visiting room (rules, May 2025)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Visiting room (handbook, Dec. 2021)	Saturday, Sunday, Monday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	Same visiting days. Only 2 SHU inmates are in the visiting room at a time. They stay in restraints.	Same hours

No visitors are let in after 2:30 p.m. Visitors may arrive at 8:00 a.m. to begin processing but may not come onto the grounds before 7:50 a.m. On weekends and holidays no one may enter or leave the institution from 9:30 a.m. until the 10:00 a.m. count clears. Once a visitor leaves the prison, the visit is over for that day.

The 2025 rules give no social visiting on Monday through Friday except federal holidays. [1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. Sandstone's two papers disagree. The visiting rules (**May 19, 2025**) say visits are Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. The handbook (**December 2021**) also lists **Monday**, and says visitors are not processed before 8:30 a.m. or after 2:30 p.m. (the rules let visitors start processing at 8:00 a.m.). The 2025 rules are newer, but **call the prison at 320-245-2262 before you drive**, especially for a Monday visit.

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

ODD AND EVEN WEEKENDS

On Saturdays and Sundays, visiting runs on an **odd/even weekend** system set by the **fifth digit of their register number** (0 counts as even). Odd numbers visit on the odd weekends of the month, even numbers on the even weekends. There is no odd/even rule on weekdays or federal holidays. A schedule is posted in the units, and they must tell you which weekends are theirs. [1]

HOW MANY VISITS	No more than **6 visits a month**. Federal holidays do not count toward the six. Up to **6 visitors** at one time unless approved ahead. The visiting room holds 100 people. When it is crowded, visits can be cut to 2 hours, with the number of visits, number of visitors and distance traveled in mind. [1]
WHO CAN BE ON THE LIST	Up to **20 adult visitors** (age 16 and older). Friends must have known them before prison unless the Warden approves an exception. A visitor cannot be on two inmates' lists unless the relationship can be verified (for example two family members both at Sandstone). New arrivals and holdovers with no approved list: **immediate family only**, with a birth certificate or other proof; approval normally takes about five working days. [1]
CHANGING THE LIST	They can change the list **once a month**. [1]
ID	Valid state or government photo ID for everyone 16 and older. Your ID is held at the front lobby during the visit. Children under 16 must come with a parent or guardian. You also fill out a Notification to Visitor form (BP-A0224) before the visit. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	No purses, wallets, briefcases or bags. One clear plastic change purse (about 5 by 8 inches) with no more than **$40.00**, in bills no larger than $20.00. No playing cards, toys, newspapers, magazines, gum, food, tobacco, ChapStick or watches. Leave cell phones, car keys and handbags in your locked car or a locker. No photos on the grounds. Your own wheelchair is not allowed; the prison provides one. [1]
FOR A BABY	A reasonable amount of diapers, wipes, a small blanket and bottles or food, carried in hand or in a clear plastic bag no bigger than one gallon. No diaper bags or strollers. A designated area is set aside for nursing mothers. [1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No tight, see-through or spandex clothing (leggings, yoga pants); tank tops; hooded clothing; halter tops or sleeveless shirts; clothes with holes; plunging necklines; wrap-around skirts; hats or head wear; open-toed shoes or Crocs; shorts more than one inch above the knee; skirts that do not touch the bottom of the knee when sitting. **No khaki, camouflage, orange or gray.** No jackets or coats in the visit. Shirts must hang at least 3 inches below the belt line. Children under 13 may wear shorts. [1]
TOUCHING	An embrace and a kiss when you arrive and when you leave. Nothing else. Crossing legs together, holding hands, arms around each other, lying on the furniture, fondling and kissing at other times can end the visit. [1]
WHAT THEY WEAR	Clean, pressed khaki clothes, a belt, shirt buttoned and tucked in, and boots. Zip tags are put on their boots, and a removed or missing tag ends the visit. They may bring one handkerchief, one wedding ring, one comb and prescription glasses. They are pat searched going in and strip searched coming out. [1]
PHOTOS	An approved inmate photographer takes photos on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Photo tickets are bought in the commissary. [1]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Their counselor gives them a proposed visitor list. They add their family and attorney.

2. Everyone else gets a **Visitor Information form (BP-A0629)** mailed to them by your loved one.
3. The form and a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) check must be done before approval. The Unit Manager approves each visitor.
4. The counselor tells **them** who was approved or turned down. **They** must tell you and give you a copy of the visiting rules. Do not drive until you know you are on the list.
5. If a background check turns up a problem, the Warden decides. The inmate is told the visitor will not be added, but is not told why.

Fill out the visiting form for Sandstone

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

BY CAR	FCI Sandstone is about 3 miles southeast of the town of Sandstone, Minnesota, off State Highway 123. When you reach the institution, stop at the red light on the right side of the entrance drive and follow the posted instructions. Do not park along the Bureau Road; use the authorized visitor parking. (From the 2021 handbook and the 2025 visiting rules.)

Street address for your GPS: 2300 County Rd 29, Sandstone, Mn 55072. [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 SANDSTONE

Rules dated **May 19, 2025** (1 year old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/sst/sst_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/sst/sst_visit_sp.pdf)

Skirts and dresses	Skirts must touch bottom of the knee when sitting (0 inches above).
Shorts	Shorts no more than 1 inch above the knee.
Colors to avoid	No khaki pants or shirts; no tan, brown or beige. No orange. No grey. No tan, brown, beige or colors similar to inmate clothing.
Leggings, spandex	No spandex, leggings or yoga pants. No 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.
Shoes	No open-toed shoes or sandals; closed-toe required. No sandals or Crocs of any type.
Children	Children under 13 may wear shorts.

ALL 26 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts must touch bottom of the knee when sitting (0 inches above).
  BOP wording: "Skirts that are not touching the bottom of the knee when sitting"
- Shorts no more than 1 inch above the knee.
  BOP wording: "Shorts that are more than one inch above the knee"
- No tank tops or sleeveless shirts.
  BOP wording: "Halter tops/sleeveless shirts"
- No plunging necklines.
  BOP wording: "x. Plunging necklines"
- Shirts must hang at least 3 inches below the belt line.
  BOP wording: "No shirts that hang less than 3 inches below the belt line."
- No halter tops.
  BOP wording: "viii. Halter tops/sleeveless shirts"
- No transparent clothing.
  BOP wording: "ii. Transparent clothing"
- No tight clothing.
  BOP wording: "i. Tight clothing"
- No spandex, leggings or yoga pants.
  BOP wording: "Spandex clothing (i.e., legging/ yoga pants)"

- No holes in clothing.
  BOP wording: "ix. Holes in clothing"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki pants or shirts; no tan, brown or beige.
  BOP wording: "Khaki colored pants or shirts"
- No orange.
  BOP wording: "xiii. Camouflage, Orange, Grey"
- No grey.
  BOP wording: "xiii. Camouflage, Orange, Grey"
- No tan, brown, beige or colors similar to inmate clothing.
  BOP wording: "(tan, brown, beige, or any color similar in appearance to inmate clothing)."
- No camouflage.
  BOP wording: "xiii. Camouflage, Orange, Grey"

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- Undergarments must be worn.
  BOP wording: "Undergarments must be worn."

SHOES

- No open-toed shoes or sandals; closed-toe required.
  BOP wording: "Opened toed shoes (i.e. sandals for both male & female)"
- No sandals or Crocs of any type.
  BOP wording: "xvi. Croes of any type"

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats, caps or other head attire.
  BOP wording: "Hats, Caps, and any other head attire"
- No hooded clothing.
  BOP wording: "vii. Hooded clothing"
- No jackets or coats during visits; hung on wall.
  BOP wording: "Jackets and coats are not allowed during visiting"

CHILDREN

- Children under 13 may wear shorts.
  BOP wording: "Children under the age of 13 years old will be allowed to wear shorts."

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No questionable wording (gang affiliation, profanity).
  BOP wording: "No attire with questionable wording (i.e., gang affiliation, profanity, etc.)."
- No wrap-around skirts.
  BOP wording: "xi. Wrap-around skirts"
- No watches (or purses/bags).
  BOP wording: "Purses or bags of any kind vi. Watches"

IF THEY SAY NO

- Questionable clothing cleared through IDO or Operations Lieutenant.
  BOP wording: "Any questionable clothing will be cleared through the IDO or the Operations Lieutenant"

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 Sandstone
P.O. Box 1000
Sandstone, Mn 55072

Put their name and register number on the envelope, then P.O. Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072 (from the BOP facility feed). [2]

Use the P.O. Box only. Never mail to the street address (2300 County Rd 29, Sandstone, Mn 55072).

BOOKS AND PAPERS	Hard cover publications and newspapers only from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore. [2]
NO POLAROIDS	They may not keep Polaroid photos. Nude or sexually suggestive photos are not allowed. [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter or leave it at the prison. Funds go to the BOP lockbox (see the Money tab). Documents that need their signature must be mailed to them, not brought to a visit. [1]

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. SST-5267.09D, Visiting Regulations (May 19, 2025) bop.gov/locations/institutions/sst/sst_visit.pdf
2. FCI Sandstone Admission and Orientation Handbook (updated December 2021) bop.gov/locations/institutions/sst/sst_ao-handbook.pdf