Printed November 4, 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 SHERIDAN

Federal Correctional Institution · Sheridan, OR · Phone 503-843-4442

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
FCI (main prison)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Satellite camp	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	Saturday and Sunday. Video visit, 1 hour.	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Detention center (FDC), Unit J-1	Friday and Saturday	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Detention center (FDC), Unit J-2	Sunday and Monday	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Processing of visitors stops one hour before the visiting room closes. The handbook says no visitors are allowed in after 2:00 p.m. Visitors are not allowed on the grounds before 8:00 a.m. Processing normally starts by 8:30 a.m. On weekends and holidays it stops at 9:15 a.m. for the count and starts again when the count clears.

The visiting rules give no regular social visiting at the FCI or camp except Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. [1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. Sheridan's visiting rules are old: **July 21, 2019**. The handbook is from **October 2021**. They agree on Saturday, Sunday and holiday hours, but the handbook says the Warden can change visiting days and times. **Call the prison at 503-843-4442 before you drive.**

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

POINTS

Each person at the FCI and camp gets **12 visiting points a month**. A Saturday or Sunday visit costs **2 points**. There are no points charged on New Year's Day, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas or Minister of Record visits. Other holidays cost 2 points. At the detention center a Friday or Monday costs 1 point and a Saturday or Sunday costs 2. [1]

HOW MANY PEOPLE	No more than **6 visitors at a time, children included**, and no more than **4 adults**. A child over 16 counts as an adult. An infant who can be held by an adult is not counted. If more than 4 adults arrive, a "split visit" may be arranged. People who leave to let others in cannot come back that day and may not wait on the grounds. At the detention center the limit is 2 adults and up to 4 children. [1]
WHO CAN BE ON THE LIST	Up to **10 friends and associates**, plus immediate family (not counted in the 10). Detention center inmates awaiting trial or transfer list **immediate family only** (mother, father, stepparents, foster parents, brothers, sisters, spouse, children). Someone with a prior criminal conviction needs the Warden's approval. [1]
CHANGING THE LIST	They can change the list with unit staff approval. If requests get excessive, staff may limit changes to 3 in 6 months. [1]
ID	Everyone **16 or older** needs a valid state or government photo ID showing full name and signature. An expired license is not valid. **Every child, of any age, must be on the approved list.** Children under 16 must come with an approved adult. [1]
SCREENING	You must clear the walk-through metal detector. Everyone is subject to a random pat search by same-gender staff. Cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices are not allowed in; a limited number of lockers are in the front lobby. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	No food, gifts, games, needlework, pocketbooks, baby strollers or packages. No papers, packages or money orders. You may bring one car key. For a baby: one pacifier, one diaper, five wipes, a clear sippy cup, one infant blanket, and one bottle of breast milk or factory-sealed single-serve formula, which staff keep at the officer's station. No toys. [1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No see-through, revealing or suggestive clothing. Dresses and skirts must reach at least the bottom of the kneecap with no slit above the knee. No halter tops, hoods, tank tops, strapless tops, shorts, miniskirts, culottes, spandex, leggings, yoga pants or sweat suits. No khaki, green, red or yellow outfits, nothing resembling staff uniforms, and no watches or bracelets. Children under 12 may wear shorts no higher than 6 inches above the knee. [1]
TOUCHING	Shaking hands, a kiss and an embrace are allowed when you meet and just before you leave, within the limits of good taste. Visiting room photos may not show adults kissing. [1]
SMOKING	All visiting areas are non-smoking. No tobacco products of any kind. [1]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	Visits for people from the local area are ended first, in the order they arrived. [2]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Your loved one mails a **visiting form** to each person they want on the list.
2. You fill it out and mail it **directly to their counselor**.
3. The counselor runs a background investigation. If you are approved, unit staff enter you into the visiting program.
4. If someone is turned down, the unit team gives **them** a written "Notice of Denial for Proposed Visiting

Applicant." **They** must tell you. Do not drive until you know you are approved.

5. At the detention center an initial list is ordinarily ready within 7 days of staff getting what they need.

Fill out the visiting form for Sheridan

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

FROM PORTLAND	Take Interstate 5 south to Highway 99W. Go west on 99W toward McMinnville. Take the Highway 18 bypass (Ocean Beaches) around McMinnville and continue on Highway 18 toward the Beach. About 13 miles west on Highway 18, take the second Sheridan exit and turn right off the ramp. The institution is on the south side of the highway and is easy to see from the exit.
FROM SALEM	Take Highway 22 west toward Dallas and the Beach Cities. Continue to the Valley Junction turn-off to Highway 18 East. Continue on Highway 18 East to the Sheridan off ramp. Turn left. The institution is about 1/4 of a mile along Ballston Road.
PARKING AND LODGING	Visitor parking is in the east parking lot, marked by white painted curbs. Lodging is limited in this rural area. The handbook lists the Sheridan Country Inn, 1330 W. Main Street, Sheridan (503-843-3151 or 503-843-3226), and the Americas Best Value Inn & Suites, 345 N. Highway 99W, McMinnville (503-472-5187).

Street address for your GPS: 27072 Ballston Road, Sheridan, Or 97378. [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 SHERIDAN

Rules dated **July 21, 2019** (7 years old)

Official rules (PDF)(bop.gov/locations/institutions/she/she_visit.pdf) En español (PDF)(bop.gov/locations/institutions/she/she_visit_sp.pdf)

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

Skirts and dresses	Dresses/skirts must touch bottom of kneecap (0 inches above); no slit above knee.
Shorts	No shorts or culottes; children under 12 may at staff discretion.
Colors to avoid	No khaki outfits resembling inmate clothing. No green outfits resembling inmate clothing. No red or yellow outfits; nothing resembling inmate or staff uniforms.
Leggings, spandex	No leggings, jeggings, spandex, leotards, yoga pants unless covered by skirt. No tight or form fitting dresses such as knit or spandex.
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 clothing resembling staff uniforms.
Shoes	Shoes need heel or strap; no open-toed shoes. No slipper type shoes, shower shoes, or flip-flops.
Children	Children under 12 may wear shorts, max 6 inches above knee.

ALL 24 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Dresses/skirts must touch bottom of kneecap (0 inches above); no slit above knee.
  BOP wording: "Dresses or skirts must be no shorter than"
- No shorts or culottes; children under 12 may at staff discretion.
  BOP wording: "strapless dresses, shorts, miniskirt, culottes and spandex"
- No tank tops.
  BOP wording: "Halter tops, hooded clothing, tank tops, strapless tops,"
- No revealing V-necks or suggestive blouses.
  BOP wording: "(i.e., revealing V-Neck, or any garment that reveals the mid-section)"
- Tops must cover stomach, chest, and back; nothing revealing mid-section.
  BOP wording: "Tops will cover the upper body, including stomach, chest/breasts, and back."
- No halter tops, strapless tops, or strapless dresses.
  BOP wording: "Halter tops, hooded clothing, tank tops, strapless tops,"
- No transparent or see-through clothing.
  BOP wording: "Visitors wearing transparent, revealing, or suggestive clothing will not be admitted into the institution."
- No tight or form fitting dresses such as knit or spandex.

BOP wording: "Tight or form fitting dresses such as knit, spandex, or any other material that is form fitting will not be permitted."

- No leggings, jeggings, spandex, leotards, yoga pants unless covered by skirt.
  BOP wording: "Any "pantyhose" type leggings, Jeggings, Spandex, Leotards, Yoga pants, etc."
- No pants with holes unless covered by dress/skirt.
  BOP wording: "or pants with holes, will not be permitted unless the lower body is covered by an appropriate length dress/skirt."
- No sweat shirts/pants or jogging outfits (resemble inmate clothing).
  BOP wording: "Sweat shirts/pants, jogging outfits (pants or jackets) are not allowed"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No khaki outfits resembling inmate clothing.
  BOP wording: "clothing (i.e., khaki, green, red and yellow outfits (top and"
- No green outfits resembling inmate clothing.
  BOP wording: "clothing (i.e., khaki, green, red and yellow outfits (top and"
- No red or yellow outfits; nothing resembling inmate or staff uniforms.
  BOP wording: "excessively resembles the style or color of inmate clothing"
- No clothing resembling staff uniforms.
  BOP wording: "Clothing that resembles staff uniforms will not be worn."

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- No watches or bracelets.
  BOP wording: "No watches/bracelets are allowed."

SHOES

- Shoes need heel or strap; no open-toed shoes.
  BOP wording: "Shoes must have a heel or be able to strap to the foot."
- No slipper type shoes, shower shoes, or flip-flops.
  BOP wording: "2. Shower shoes 3. Flip-Flops"

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hooded clothing.
  BOP wording: "Halter tops, hooded clothing, tank tops, strapless tops,"

CHILDREN

- Children under 12 may wear shorts, max 6 inches above knee.
  BOP wording: "children under the age of twelve (12) will be allowed to wear shorts. Short pants will be no higher than 6 inches above the knee."

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No sexually suggestive/offensive writing or gang logos.
  BOP wording: "wearing any clothing that contains sexually suggestive/offensive writing, or writing/logos that reference gangs."
- Shoes required; no bare feet except babies.
  BOP wording: "All visitors must be fully attired, including shoes."

IF THEY SAY NO

- Visitors failing metal detector due to clothing may change and return.
  BOP wording: "If clothing is preventing a visitor from clearing the metal detector they may return to their vehicle for a change of clothing."
- Clothing deemed inappropriate for prison not authorized.
  BOP wording: "Any clothing not noted above that is deemed inappropriate for wear in a correctional facility will not be authorized."

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 Sheridan
P.O. Box 5000
Sheridan, Or 97378

Put their committed name and register number on the envelope. FCI inmates: P.O. Box 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378. Camp inmates: P.O. Box 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378 (from the BOP facility feed). [2]

Use the P.O. Box only. Never mail to the street address (27072 Ballston Road, Sheridan, Or 97378).

THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	Outgoing mail may not be sealed by them and may be read and inspected by staff. [2]
BOOKS AND PAPERS	Hard-cover publications and newspapers only from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore. Soft-cover publications also only from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore. [2]
PHOTOS	They may not keep Polaroid photos. Nude or sexually suggestive photos are not allowed. [2]
LEGAL MAIL	Legal and Special Mail is handed out by unit staff. [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. Funds go to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines, Iowa: Federal Bureau of Prisons, their committed name and register number, P.O. Box 474701, Des Moines, IA 50947-0001 (see the Money tab). [2]

Books and magazines: at a medium security prison, books and magazines must come straight from a publisher, book club or bookstore (Amazon, for example), never from home.

Sources

1. Institution Supplement 5267.09c, Visiting Regulations (July 21, 2019) bop.gov/locations/institutions/she/she_visit.pdf
2. FCI Sheridan Admission and Orientation Handbook (October 2021) bop.gov/locations/institutions/she/she_ao-handbook.pdf