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FEDERAL PRISON GUIDE

VISIT PACKET: FCI THOMSON

Federal Correctional Institution · Thomson, IL · Phone 815-259-1000

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 prison camp (SCP)	Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. Outside visiting is allowed at the camp.	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	Non-contact, one hour. The rules say visiting for the SHU is allowed Friday, Saturday and Sunday.	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At the FCI, visitors are processed from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At the camp, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. SHU visitors are not processed after 1:00 p.m. Visits end at 3:00 p.m. Staff stop processing visitors out of the visiting room 30 minutes before visiting ends.

The visiting rules give no regular visiting days except Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays (plus Friday for the SHU). [1]

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

HOW MANY VISITS

Each person gets **6 visiting points a month**. The rules say 2 points are taken for each visit on Saturday and Sunday, "excluding" federal holidays, and they do not say what a holiday costs. Points are cancelled at the end of the month. [1]

HOW MANY PEOPLE

No more than **4 approved visitors** at a time. Up to three children under 10 can be added if they do not take a seat. A child who takes a seat counts as an adult. Children under 16 must be on the visiting list and must come with their parent or legal guardian, who is also on the list. They may only interact with their own children. [1]

ID

Everyone **16 or older** needs a valid state or U.S. government photo ID, such as a driver's license. Teens 16 and 17 must be on the list and come with their parent or legal guardian. [1]

SCREENING	Visitors may be screened with electronic drug-detection devices before they are let in. Staff may search you and your things. You may not come in under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or with any weapon. [1]
MONEY FOR VENDING MACHINES	Up to **$20 in coins** in a clear container. The attachment to the rules says quarters, not in rolls. Staff do not accept or hold money. The visiting room has vending machines and microwave ovens. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	A small clear plastic container or bag no bigger than 8 x 8 x 8 inches, your photo ID, and the money. Essential medicine (such as an asthma inhaler or nitroglycerine) is kept at the officer's station and needs prior approval when you are placed on the list. No food or drinks. Everything else stays in your car. No cell phones or cameras. [1]
FOR A BABY	Per child: 2 diapers, 1 unopened pack of wipes, 1 change of clothes, 2 clear baby bottles with contents, 2 small unopened jars of baby food, 1 receiving blanket and 1 clear cup. The rules attach a summary page that lists 4 diapers, 4 bottles and 4 jars of baby food instead, so ask when you call. [1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No see-through clothing, dresses above the knee, shorts, mini-skirts, halter tops, tight clothing, open-toed shoes, crocs, or hats and head covers (except religious or medical). **No khaki, camouflage or fluorescent orange.** No bare feet except for babies. [1]
TOUCHING	A handshake, embrace and kiss within good taste at the start and end of the visit, with staff watching. No holding hands and no arms around each other. You sit across from each other. Children may sit in a visitor's lap. [1]
WHEN IT GETS CROWDED	Staff may limit how long visits last or how many visitors there are. They consider the room's capacity, **how far you traveled**, and whether you are local or visit often. [1]
WALSH ACT	People convicted of a sex offense involving a minor have their visits closely monitored. [1]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Right after they arrive, your loved one gives their **Correctional Counselor** a list of people they want to visit them. Immediate family (parents, grandparents, stepparents, foster parents, brothers, sisters, spouse and children) are added unless there is good cause not to.
2. Everyone on the list, **including immediate family**, gets a background check and must be approved before a visit.
3. The **Unit Manager** approves or denies each person. If you are denied, the Unit Manager tells your loved one, and **they** tell you. Do not drive until you are approved.
4. The list holds **no more than 20 visitors**. They can ask for a change at any time by sending an Inmate Request to Staff during Unit Team open house hours.
5. Friends and other visitors must usually have known them before prison. The Warden can approve an exception.
6. A prior criminal conviction does not automatically bar you. Staff look at your relationship to them and how serious and how recent the conviction is.
7. The rules give no form number for the visitor application.

Fill out the visiting form for Thomson

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

ADDRESS AND AIRPORTS	The prison is at 1100 One Mile Road, Thomson, Illinois 61285. Phone (815) 259-1000, Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for regular business. The nearest major airport is Quad City International Airport in Moline, Illinois, 48 miles south. Dubuque Regional Airport in Iowa is 59 miles north. Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Rockford, Illinois also have airports. The rules give no road directions.

Street address for your GPS: 1100 One Mile Road, Thomson, Il 61285.

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 THOMSON

Rules dated **06/24/2025** (1 year old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/tom/tom_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/tom/tom_visit_sp.pdf)

These rules contradict themselves. When two rules disagree, dress by the stricter one.

Skirts and dresses	Shorts/skirts/dresses no shorter than 2 inches above mid-knee; no slits above knee.
Shorts	Shorts no shorter than 2 inches above mid-knee; attachments ban shorts entirely.
Colors to avoid	No brown (khaki) pants, shirts, jackets, or coats at the FCI. No forest/dark green pants, shirts, jackets, or coats at the Camp. No fluorescent orange clothing. No clothing sold to inmates through commissary.
Leggings, spandex	No pantyhose-type leggings, jeggings, spandex, or leotards unless lower body covered. No tight or form-fitting dresses or skin-tight pants of any material.
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 clothing.
Shoes	Closed-toe shoes required; no open-toe footwear. No house shoes, flip-flops, slippers, or crocs.
Children	Length rule applies to persons over 10; babies may be barefoot.

ALL 29 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Shorts/skirts/dresses no shorter than 2 inches above mid-knee; no slits above knee.
  BOP wording: "knee will not be permitted. Shorts, skirts or dresses must not"
- Shorts no shorter than 2 inches above mid-knee; attachments ban shorts entirely.
  BOP wording: "be shorter than two inches above the mid-knee for persons over 10"
- No tank tops.
  BOP wording: "chest/breasts, and back. Tank tops are not permissible. Clothing"
- No tops revealing rise of breast or cleavage, low-cut or unbuttoned.
  BOP wording: "worn in such a way as to reveal the rise of a breast(s) or"
- Tops must cover stomach, chest/breasts, and back.
  BOP wording: "Tops will cover the upper body, including stomach,"
- No see-through or transparent clothing.
  BOP wording: "made of see-through material will not be permitted. Tops that are"
- No tight or form-fitting dresses or skin-tight pants of any material.
  BOP wording: "years of age. Tight or form fitting dresses such as knit,"

- No pantyhose-type leggings, jeggings, spandex, or leotards unless lower body covered.
  BOP wording: "ab Any "pantyhose" type leggings, Jeggings,"
- No pants with holes unless lower body is covered.
  BOP wording: "regardless of the material), or pants with holes, will not be"
- No sweat pants or sweat shorts.
  BOP wording: "population through the commissary such as sweat pants, sweat"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No brown (khaki) pants, shirts, jackets, or coats at the FCI.
  BOP wording: "shorts, and plain white T-shirts are not permitted. Any - brown"
- No forest/dark green pants, shirts, jackets, or coats at the Camp.
  BOP wording: "(khaki) at the FCI or forest green (dark green) at the Camp -"
- No fluorescent orange clothing.
  BOP wording: "religious or medical headgear. Clothing that is khaki, camouflage and"
- No clothing sold to inmates through commissary.
  BOP wording: "iii. Any clothing accessible to the inmate"
- No camouflage clothing.
  BOP wording: "religious or medical headgear. Clothing that is khaki, camouflage and"

SHOES

- Closed-toe shoes required; no open-toe footwear.
  BOP wording: "blake Closed toe shoes are required. No open-toe"
- No house shoes, flip-flops, slippers, or crocs.
  BOP wording: "flip-flops, slippers) may not be worn. Footwear with rolling"

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats, visors, head wraps, headbands, ball caps, bandanas, sweat bands, do-rags.
  BOP wording: "iv. Head-wear, such as hats, visors, head wraps,"
- Religious (and medical) headwear is allowed.
  BOP wording: "or headbands (with the exception of religious head-wear) will not"
- No hooded clothing or shirts.
  BOP wording: "be permitted. Sun glasses, or any hooded clothing or shirts will"

CHILDREN

- Length rule applies to persons over 10; babies may be barefoot.
  BOP wording: "be shorter than two inches above the mid-knee for persons over 10"

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No suggestive or offensive words or pictures.
  BOP wording: "permitted. Clothing with suggestive or offensive words or"
- No wrap-around dresses, skirts, or tops.
  BOP wording: "(2) Dresses, skirts, or tops that wrap around the"
- No plain white T-shirts.
  BOP wording: "shorts, and plain white T-shirts are not permitted. Any - brown"

- No sunglasses.
  BOP wording: "be permitted. Sun glasses, or any hooded clothing or shirts will"
- No footwear with rolling heels.
  BOP wording: "heels is not permitted."
- No culottes.
  BOP wording: "shorts, mini-skirts, culottes, or excessively tight-fitting clothing will"

IF THEY SAY NO

- Visitors violating dress code get chance to change before denial.
  BOP wording: "given the opportunity to change into appropriate attire prior to"
- Only IDO or Operations Lieutenant may deny a visit; other clothing deemed inappropriate banned.
  BOP wording: "decline the visit. Only the IDO or Operations Lieutenant will"

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 Thomson
P.O. Box 1002
Thomson, Il 61285

Thomson has not posted a handbook, so we have no Thomson-specific mail rules. Ask your loved one for their register number and unit, and check the BOP's national mail rules.

Use the P.O. Box only. Never mail to the street address (1100 One Mile Road, Thomson, Il 61285).

NOT POSTED	The prison's own mail rules are not on the BOP website.

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. TOM 5267.09J, Visiting Regulations (June 24, 2025) bop.gov/locations/institutions/tom/tom_visit.pdf