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: MCC CHICAGO

Metropolitan Correctional Center · Chicago, IL · Phone 312-322-0567

VISITING

VISITING HOURS AND DAYS

WHO	DAYS	HOURS
Social visits, general population	Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday. Which floor visits on which day follows a 4-week rotation (see below).	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Special Housing Unit (SHU)	Tuesday and Thursday mornings, by live video, non-contact. 2 hours for administrative detention, 1 hour for disciplinary segregation.	8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Attorneys	Seven days a week	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Visitor processing stops one hour before visiting ends, so you must be in the front lobby by **2:00 p.m.** Anyone arriving after that cannot visit. Each visitor gets at least one hour in the visiting room.

No social visits Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday (Tuesday and Thursday mornings are for people in the Special Housing Unit, by video). [1]

The BOP's own papers disagree. The handbook (revised September 2022) says visiting hours are "Friday through Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m." and that the day depends on the unit. The 2025 rules (November 12, 2025) list Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday with a 4-week floor rotation. Both agree on the days. Call 312-322-0567 before you drive to confirm which day your loved one's floor visits.

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

WHICH FLOOR, WHICH DAY	The rules give a 4-week rotation by floor (unit number). **Week 1:** Sunday 23, Monday 15, Friday 19, Saturday 13. **Week 2:** Sunday 17, Monday 21, Friday 25, Saturday 12. **Week 3:** Sunday 15, Monday 23, Friday 13, Saturday 19. **Week 4:** Sunday 21, Monday 17, Friday 12, Saturday 25. Ask your loved one which floor they are on and which week it is. [1]
HOW MANY VISITS	Everyone gets at least 4 hours of visiting a month. Visits follow the posted activity schedule. [1]

HOW MANY PEOPLE	**Designated men and all women: 5 visitors** at a time. **Pretrial and holdover inmates: 3 visitors** at a time, children included. A small child who can sit on an adult's lap does not count. To ask for more, use the special-visit process. [1]
WHO CAN BE ON THE LIST	Sentenced inmates: immediate family plus **10 friends and associates**, 16 or older. Pretrial and holdover inmates: immediate family (spouse, mother, father, sister, brother, children) plus **1** other person (grandparent, in-law, aunt, uncle or friend), at most **6** visitors, 16 or older. Illinois does not recognize common-law marriage, so the BOP does not either. They can change the list once every six months. [1]
ID	Valid driver's license, government ID, consular-issued ID card, or passport with a current photo. Everyone 16 or older fills out a "Notification to Visitor" form. A 16 or 17 year old visiting without an adult needs a parent or guardian's signature on the Visitor Information form. [1]
SCREENING	You go through the walk-through metal detector. If it goes off, you get a hand wand. If you still set it off, you can change clothes and try once more. Fail again and you cannot visit that day. No underwire bras. A pat search is voluntary, but refusing means no entry. No bare feet except infants. [1]
MONEY	Visitors may have no more than **$20.00 in bills no larger than $5.00**. Inmates may not have, touch or receive money during a visit. [1]
WHAT YOU CAN CARRY	A small clear coin purse. For an infant: three diapers, baby wipes in a clear bag, one receiving blanket and three bottles. Everything else goes in a lobby locker. [1]
NOT ALLOWED IN	Purses, briefcases, two-way and Bluetooth devices, gum, food, lighters, knives, electronic games, cameras, photographs, cell phones, pagers, watches and wrist devices. [1]
WHAT NOT TO WEAR	No shorts or sleeveless clothes (except small children up to age 4). No sweatpants, sweatshirts, sun dresses, leotards, wrap skirts, crop tops, low-cut tops, halter tops, tube tops, bathing suits or backless tops. No hats, headbands, hoods, wigs or sunglasses. No coats or jackets, spandex, tights, holes, athletic jerseys, see-through clothes, or anything like inmate or staff uniforms. Religious headwear is allowed. [1]
TOUCHING	A brief kiss and embrace at the start and end only. No holding hands or kissing during the visit. [1]
ROOM SIZE	The visiting room has **86** chairs. If it is full, you wait. Visits are ended first in, first out. [1]
SHU VIDEO VISITS	People in the Special Housing Unit visit by live video. An inmate in long-term administrative detention may ask for a contact visit once every 90 days. [1]

HOW TO GET ON THE VISITING LIST

1. Your loved one mails you a **visitor application** with the dress code. (The rules also mention "BP-629.05" for the Visitor Information form; not confirmed.) They have 30 days after arriving to mail it.
2. Fill it out and mail it back through the **U.S. Postal Service** to their counselor. A form printed from the BOP website must be checked by the unit team and your loved one before the background check starts.

3. The counselor runs a background check (NCIC). If you have a law enforcement record, the unit manager and Associate Warden decide.
4. The unit team tells your loved one, and **they** tell you. Do not drive until you are approved.
5. Routine changes to the list are allowed once every six months.
6. Pretrial and holdover inmates must prove each relationship with papers, such as marriage or birth certificates.

Fill out the visiting form for Chicago

[1]

DRIVING DIRECTIONS (FROM THE BOP)

DIRECTIONS	The rules say directions and local transport information are available from your loved one's unit team. MCC Chicago is at 71 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

Street address for your GPS: 71 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, Il 60605. [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.

MCC CHICAGO

Rules dated **November 12, 2025** (1 year old)

Official rules (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/ccc/ccc_visit.pdf) En español (PDF) (bop.gov/locations/institutions/ccc/ccc_visit_sp.pdf)

Skirts and dresses	Skirts no more than two inches above the knee; no long slits.
Shorts	No shorts, except children up to age 4.
Colors to avoid	No green clothing. No orange clothing. No clothing like that issued to inmates.
Leggings, spandex	No spandex pants, tights or leotards. No tight or form-fitting clothing.
Bras and metal	No undergarments containing metal, e.g. underwire bras.
Camouflage, military	No camouflage clothing. No uniforms of any kind (medical scrubs, law enforcement).
Shoes	No open-toed or open-heeled shoes, slippers, or bare feet except infants. No sandals, shower shoes or flip-flops.
Children	Shorts and sleeveless allowed for children up to age 4.

ALL 32 RULES, IN THE BOP'S OWN WORDS

LENGTH AND FIT

- Skirts no more than two inches above the knee; no long slits.
  BOP wording: "Mini-skirts or wrap around skirts; skirts more than two (2) inches above the knee."
- No shorts, except children up to age 4.
  BOP wording: "Shorts (except for children up to age 4)"
- No sleeveless garments or partial sleeves exposing underarms.
  BOP wording: "Sleeveless, strapless, or bareback blouses or dresses; partial sleeves exposing the underarm area."
- No low-cut blouses/dresses or deep V-necks.
  BOP wording: "Deep V-neck blouses, low-cut shirts, or dresses"
- No crop tops or midriff shirts.
  BOP wording: "Halter tops or midriff shirts"
- No halter tops, tube tops or backless tops.
  BOP wording: "Halter tops, tube tops, bathing suits or backless tops."
- No see-through clothing, even with a shirt underneath.
  BOP wording: "Tight, form-fitting, or see-through clothing. This includes see through shirts with a shirt underneath."
- No tight or form-fitting clothing.
  BOP wording: "Tight, form-fitting, or see-through clothing."
- No spandex pants, tights or leotards.
  BOP wording: "Spandex pants, tights or clothing with revealing holes."

- No clothing with revealing holes.
  BOP wording: "Spandex pants, tights or clothing with revealing holes."
- No bathing suits or swimwear.
  BOP wording: "Halter tops, tube tops, bathing suits or backless tops."
- No sweatpants, sweatshirts, warm-up or jogging suits.
  BOP wording: "Sweatpants, sweatshirts, sun dresses, leotards, wrap around skirts,"

COLORS AND UNIFORMS

- No green clothing.
  BOP wording: "Orange, green, or camouflage colored clothing"
- No orange clothing.
  BOP wording: "Orange, green, or camouflage colored clothing (clothing similar to that worn by inmates)"
- No clothing like that issued to inmates.
  BOP wording: "Any clothing like that issued to inmates or staff uniforms."
- No camouflage clothing.
  BOP wording: "Orange, green, or camouflage colored clothing"
- No uniforms of any kind (medical scrubs, law enforcement).
  BOP wording: "Uniforms of any kind (medical scrubs, law enforcement, etc.)"

BRAS, UNDERWEAR AND METAL

- Undergarments are required for admission.
  BOP wording: "UNDERGARMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION."
- No undergarments containing metal, e.g. underwire bras.
  BOP wording: "Undergarments containing metal (i.e. underwire bra) are not permitted."
- No watches of any kind.
  BOP wording: "Watches — wristwatches, pocket watches, etc."

SHOES

- No open-toed or open-heeled shoes, slippers, or bare feet except infants.
  BOP wording: "Sandals, shower shoes or "flip flop" type shoes, open toed or open heeled shoes"
- No sandals, shower shoes or flip-flops.
  BOP wording: "Sandals, shower shoes or "flip flop" type shoes,"

HATS, HOODS AND COATS

- No hats, caps, headbands, head scarves or sunglasses.
  BOP wording: "Hats, caps, headbands, head scarfs, hooded garments, wigs."
- Religious headwear treated as part of person; partly removed for face ID.
  BOP wording: "Religious headwear is not considered part of a visitor's belongings, but rather their person."
- No hooded garments.
  BOP wording: "Caps, hats, hooded shirts, and scarves of any kind"
- No coats, jackets, windbreakers or sweaters; suit coats/blazers allowed.
  BOP wording: "No extra clothing or outer garments, coats, overcoats, jackets, or windbreakers."
- No wigs or hairpieces.
  BOP wording: "head scarfs, hooded garments, wigs. hairpieces, and sunglasses."

CHILDREN

- Shorts and sleeveless allowed for children up to age 4.
  BOP wording: "Sleeveless garments (except for children up to age 4)"

EVERYTHING ELSE

- No athletic jerseys or gang-related clothing.
  BOP wording: "Clothing of any type which would symbolize gang activity or gang affiliation."
- No sexually suggestive clothing, sun dresses, leotards, wrap or button skirts, zippered dresses.
  BOP wording: "Clothing that is sexually suggestive, revealing. or any type of garment that is see through."

IF THEY SAY NO

- Inappropriately dressed visitors get no Title 18 form and are referred.
  BOP wording: "Staff will not provide visitors with a Title 18 Form if a visitor's dress attire is inappropriate for visitation."
- Operations Lieutenant or IDO decides if attire is suitable.
  BOP wording: "Either the Operations Lieutenant or IDO will be responsible in determining if the attire is suitable for visitation:"

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
MCC Chicago
71 West Van Buren Street
Chicago, Il 60605

MCC Chicago has **no P.O. Box**. The BOP address is the street address: 71 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605. Put their register number on the envelope. [2]

Use exactly this address. Chicago has no P.O. Box for inmate mail.

MAIL DAYS	Mail is handed out Monday through Friday, except holidays. Usually there is no weekend or holiday mail. [2]
WHITE ONLY	Incoming regular-mail envelopes must be **white**. No glitter or similar materials. [2]
PACKAGES	Every package needs approval first. [2]
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	Publications and newspapers only from the publisher, a book club or a bookstore. [2]
THEIR LETTERS TO YOU	Except for special or legal mail, outgoing mail may not be sealed and staff may read it. [2]
MONEY	Never put money in a letter. It goes to the BOP lockbox in Des Moines, Iowa (see the Money tab). [2]

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

Sources

1. CCC 5267.09F, Visiting Regulations (November 12, 2025) bop.gov/locations/institutions/ccc/ccc_visit.pdf
2. MCC Chicago Admission and Orientation Handbook (revised September 2022) bop.gov/locations/institutions/ccc/ccc_ao-handbook.pdf