

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Visitation Rules & Information

General Visitation Guidelines

Visitation is encouraged to help individuals in custody maintain ties with family, friends, and others in the community. Facilities may restrict visitation based on safety and security concerns, and during times of facility lockdowns. Check to see if the facility is on lockdown before leaving. You can call (877) 840-3220 for a list of facilities currently on lockdown or visit the “Lockdown Information” link (<https://idoc.illinois.gov/facilities/lockdowninformation.html>) to check for special visiting restrictions due to the lockdown status. If a facility is on lockdown, visitors should call the respective facility or access information regarding the facility under the Facilities link by choosing “All Facilities” from the dropdown.

Visitors may only visit one individual in custody at a time, unless prior written approval from the Chief Administrative Officer is obtained. Visitors may visit more than one Illinois Department of Corrections facility in a day.

Individuals in custody who are confined in restrictive housing status as a result of a serious staff assault, as defined by Departmental Rule 504.102A, shall only be allowed attorney, clergy and video visits unless restricted.

A proposed visitor who has been convicted of a criminal offense or who has criminal charges pending, including, but not limited to, an individual on bond, parole, Mandatory Supervised Release, probation or a formerly incarcerated person, may visit a person in IDOC custody only with the written approval of the Chief Administrative Officer. A person currently on parole or probation must have the prior written approval of both the Chief Administrative Officer and the individual’s parole agent or probation officer.

Once a prospective visitor is granted written visitation approval at any Illinois Department of Corrections facility, that permission remains in effect for all Illinois Department of Corrections facilities during the individual’s **current** incarceration.

Visitor Approval

All visitors, excluding government officials and legal visitors, must be on the individual in custody’s approved visitation list in order to be granted a visit.¹ Individuals in custody are responsible for arranging their visits and notifying their visitors of their visiting status. If you need to check if you are on an individual’s visitor list, you should contact the individual in custody to confirm. IDOC staff cannot tell you whether you are on a person’s visitation list if you call the facility.

¹ Please note permission to allow visitation of minor children must be on file for minors between the ages of 12 and 17 who are not members of the individual in custody’s immediate family and for any minor children under the age of 12 regardless of relationship who are accompanied by a visitor who is not the minor’s parent or guardian.

All adult visitors (age 18 and older), excluding legal visitors and government officials, will be required to complete a Prospective Visitor's Interview (PVI) form, a DOC 0148.

Facility Procedures and Expectations for Visitors

On your first visit to a facility, you will be required to complete a Prospective Visitor's Interview form, unless prior approval has been received through the electronic PVI process. If visitors provide false information on the form, visitation privileges may be restricted or revoked. IDOC staff have the right to interview or request background information from potential visitors to determine whether the individual would pose a threat to the safety or security of the facility, any person, or to the order of the facility. Visitors must submit to a body search by officers at the Visitor Center. Visitors who are intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted entry.

Upon entering the Visiting Room, the Visiting Room Officer will assign a table for seating during the visit. No moves will be permitted once seated unless approved by security staff. **Visits are subject to monitoring and recording** at any time by departmental staff, unless prior special arrangements have been made for confidential attorney visits or other privileged visits.

Visitors are expected to be courteous and cooperative with IDOC staff. Visitors are expected to comply with staff directives and keep noise down in respect for other visitors and staff.

Visitors choosing to use the restroom during their visit will be subject to search following the usage of the restroom. Staff will make every effort to ensure restroom facilities are available soon after being notified that a visitor needs to use the restroom facilities. All individuals in custody who choose to use the restroom during the visit are also subject to search.

Visitor Property Policy

Visitors are not allowed to bring electronic devices, such as cell phones or pagers, food, drink, smoking materials, currency, packages, purses, bags, sacks, books, magazines, sunglasses or personal keys into the Visiting Room. Visitors may place personal items in small lockers that are available at each facility at no charge. The locker key may be carried into the facility after the visitor secures personal responsibility for these items. The facility will not assume responsibility for these items.

Items that a visitor may possess inside the visiting room or in a secured locker, unless otherwise approved by the CAO, shall include:

1. Any item approved for an ADA request for reasonable accommodation.
2. For adult visitors, excluding legal visitors and government officials:
 - (1) One identification card;
 - (2) One key fob or car door key without remote attachment;
 - (3) One locker key; if issued:
 - (4) One jacket or coat appropriate for the weather;

- (5) Religious headgear approved in accordance with 20 Ill. Adm. Code 525²; and
- (6) Lifesaving medication. Any required medication shall be delivered to and held in the officer's station in the visiting room.

3. If required for an infant or toddler:

- (1) Three diapers and wipes;
- (2) One blanket;
- (3) Two filled clear plastic bottles or two sealed containers of baby food or a combination of one bottle and one sealed container of baby food;
- (4) One change of clothes;
- (5) One bib;
- (6) One pacifier;
- (7) One plastic spoon;
- (8) One clear empty cup with lid;
- (9) One coat or jacket and one hat;
- (10) One pair of gloves or mittens during appropriate weather.

NOTE: All items shall be stored in a clear bag or plastic container.

4. Vendor debit card with up to \$50 uploaded or \$25 cash if vending card is unavailable.

Visitors and individuals in custody are not allowed to be in possession of tobacco or tobacco-less products inside any IDOC facility.

Heart medication, asthma pump (inhaler) prescribed by a physician, or other prescribed lifesaving medication must be in a properly labeled container and will be stored at the officer's desk in the Visiting Room. All other medication shall be left in the lockers at the Visiting Center. Insulin syringes must be secured at the Visiting Center and the Visiting Center staff notified of same. All medication taken into the Institution must be brought to the attention of the Visiting Room Officer. Visitors will be allowed to return to the Visiting Center for the purpose of administering an insulin injection if needed. Syringes must be removed from the facility at the end of the visit.

Required Identification

All adult visitors shall be required to produce two forms of ID with one being current photo ID and the second being photo ID or proof of residency issued within 90 days, if unofficial. Types of identification include current driver's license, a state identification card or acceptable documentation of non-US citizenship including a current passport, Visa or Matricula, and or documentation that includes their date of birth.

² A letter granting permission can be provided to the prospective visitor for his or her records.

On all visits, adult visitors shall be required to show photo identification and provide vehicle information and other pertinent data, such as government identification, official credentials and attorney registration, or law student certification. Visitors under 18 years of age shall not be required to show photo identification or a birth certificate but may be verbally identified by name, as appropriate. Visitors under the age of 18 will not be required to show a photo identification at any facility.

All adult visitors will be required to produce photo identification (ID) and verification of his or her date of birth. Be sure to bring 2 forms of identification with you; one should be a current state issued photo ID.

Dress Code

- All adult visitors must be dressed appropriately for a prison environment, or the visit will not be permitted. Clothing must not advertise or suggest any items in such a manner to signify a Security Threat Group or other illegal activity. Visitors should not wear clothing that is sexually explicit, offensive, or degrading. All visitors must wear underwear, and female visitors must wear a bra. Visitors should not wear clothing which reveals the buttocks or breasts. Loose fitting clothing is encouraged but not required.
- Clothing with distressed stitching or small rips is allowed as long as clothing does not reveal excessive skin and the clothing is not otherwise explicit.
- Any clothing visibly displaying undergarments is not allowed.
- Dresses and skirts must be of an appropriate length, falling at or below the knee.
- Clothing that is excessively short, revealing, or otherwise explicit is not permitted.
- Clothing that compromises the integrity of safety/security such as gang affiliated symbols and communication that may negatively impact ability to control the population is not allowed.
- See through or sheer clothing is not allowed.
- Tube tops, halter tops, tank tops, swimsuits or swimsuit tops are not allowed.
- Break-away pants, spandex bodysuits, wrap-around skirts, are not allowed.
- Jewelry with names/initials/words, locket/picture jewelry, are not allowed.
- Earrings and permanent jewelry larger than a nickel are not allowed.

Shoe Restrictions

- Open-toed, backless shoes, stiletto and heels higher than two inches are not allowed.

NOTE: Visitors that are small minor children are able to wear open-toed shoes or sandals.

Visitors may be permitted to wear religious headgear if there are no safety or security concerns, in accordance with Department Rule 525: Subpart A. The headgear may be removed and thoroughly searched, if the visitor has indicated that the headgear has religious significance.

Wigs do not constitute headgear and will not result in the denial of visits.

Visitors may possess one watch (exclusive of smart watch devices), one bracelet, two rings (including one wedding ring), one necklace, one pair of earrings, and piercings that cannot be removed. Any belt buckles may be subject to thorough inspection.

Visitors will be asked to adjust their attire or reschedule their visit if their clothing does not meet these standards.

Contraband

Bringing contraband into an IDOC facility is a criminal offense as specified in the Illinois Criminal Code of 1961.

"Contraband" means items which are prohibited by criminal law, departmental or facility rules or posted notices. They are items which an individual in custody has no authority to possess; or property which is in excess of that which is authorized by the facility.

ALL VISITORS, THEIR VEHICLE, AND THEIR PROPERTY ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH.

Failure to submit to a search will result in denial, suspension or restriction of visiting privileges.

Any visitor who is in possession of contraband, such as weapons, drugs, etc., will be prohibited from visiting. The individual will be reported to the State Police and criminal charges may be filed. Individuals in custody are not allowed to receive any items, such as clothing, jewelry, books, magazines, paperwork, etc., from visitors.

Individuals in custody will be strip searched when entering and leaving the visiting room. Any items in the individual's possession after a visit that were not present before the visit will be considered contraband and may be cause for disciplinary action.

The only items individuals in custody will be allowed to take from the visiting room to their living areas include:

- Photographs from the Individual in Custody Photo Program
- Drawings, notes, or coloring pages made in the visiting room from the designated kid friendly area
- Legal documents from an attorney

NOTE: All items will be examined by staff prior to exiting the visiting room.

Termination of Visit/Loss of Visiting Privileges

In accordance with Illinois Administrative Code, the Chief Administrative Officer may deny, suspend, or restrict visiting privileges based, among other matters, upon the following: security and safety requirements; space availability; disruptive conduct of the individual in custody or visitor; abuse of the visiting privileges by the individual in custody or visitor; or violation of state or federal laws or departmental rules by the individual in custody or visitor.

Inappropriate actions on the part of a visitor may result in the temporary or permanent loss of that person's visiting privileges. Disruptive behavior by individuals in custody and/or visitors, or violations of any of the rules, shall be cause for the termination of visiting privileges. The Visiting Room Officer will give one warning for a minor violation of the visiting rules but must report any further disruption.

Written notification of temporary restrictions (a restriction of a visitor for up to six months) of visiting privileges shall be sent to the visitor and to the individual in custody. Any person excluded from an individual in custody's visiting list at one correctional facility shall be excluded at all facilities. The notice of temporary restriction shall state the exact length of the restriction.

A visitor who has been placed on permanent visitation restriction (a restriction of a visitor for an indefinite period of time in excess of six months) may write to the facility where the restriction was imposed for review by the Chief Administrative Officer. Section 525.60 of the Illinois Administrative Code, Restriction of Visitors, specifies: "Notices of permanent restrictions shall inform visitors and incarcerated men and women that they may request that the Chief Administrative Officer review the decision after a six-month period. After the initial six-month review, permanent restrictions shall be reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer on an annual basis upon request of the incarcerated men and women or their visitors. There may be special circumstances where it can be reviewed more frequently. Written notification of the decision shall be sent to the visitor and to the incarcerated person."

Breast Feeding Accommodations

Procedures for visitors who express the need to breastfeed during a visit. The facility shall identify a secure, private area to be designated for use by visitors for breastfeeding.

NOTE: Restroom facilities shall not be designated as areas to be used by visitors for breastfeeding.

- The visitor will notify the visiting room officer of the need to breastfeed.
- Security staff shall escort the visitor to the designated area to breastfeed and back to the visiting room after breastfeeding. A pat search of the visitor shall be conducted prior to entering the designated area and immediately upon conclusion of breastfeeding, prior to allowing re-entry into the visiting room.
- Security staff shall search and secure the designated area prior to the visitor breastfeeding and again once the visitor has finished breastfeeding.

For facilities within the Women's Division, procedures for individuals in custody who request accommodation for breastfeeding their child during a visit. The facility shall identify a secure, private area to be designated for use by individuals in custody for breastfeeding.

NOTE: Restroom facilities shall not be designated as areas to be used for breastfeeding.

- Individuals in custody shall be advised that requests for accommodation for breastfeeding should be submitted in advance to the CAO.
- Security staff shall escort the individual in custody to the designated area to breastfeed and back to the visiting room after breastfeeding. A pat search of the incarcerated individual shall be conducted prior to entering the designated area and immediately upon conclusion of breastfeeding, prior to allowing re-entry into the visiting room.
- Security staff shall search and secure the designated area prior to the individual in custody breastfeeding and again once the individual in custody has finished breastfeeding.
- The individual in custody shall be allowed reasonable privacy while breastfeeding their child.

Visitor ADA Accommodations

It is the policy of the Illinois Department of Corrections (“Agency”) to comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 12101, et. seq. (“ADA”). The ADA prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of their disability. The ADA provides, in part, that qualified individuals with disabilities shall not be excluded from participating in or be denied the benefits of any program, service, or activity offered by this Agency. The agency is not required, however, to take any action that would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program, or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens.

The Agency is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to its visitors with disabilities. Depending on the nature of the accommodation request, advance notice may be required. Visitors with questions or requests concerning reasonable accommodation should first contact the facility ADA Coordinator by calling the number provided and/or indicate what assistive devices or accommodation are needed on the Prospective Visitor Inquiry form.