



Immigration visits at the MDC

How to visit a loved one held by immigration: the approval, the schedule and what to expect.

A visit can be the best part of the week and also the hardest. You don't have to do it alone. Here is the practical side, so your energy goes to what matters: being with that person.

How the approval works

Nobody gets in without prior approval. First, the detained person has to add you to their visitor list. Then the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) reviews each visitor, which includes a form with a background check. Only once you are approved can you show up on Saturday. Family visits are non-contact, and attorneys have a separate process. Approval can take time, so start early and ask at 718-840-4200 how and where to submit the form.

Before you go

- 1 **Ask the detained person to add you to their list**, then call to confirm you have been approved.
- 2 **If you have concerns because of your immigration situation**, talk with us or an attorney before filling out the form.
- 3 **Confirm the Saturday schedule** at 718-840-4200. It can change without notice.
- 4 **Bring a photo ID** (ages 16 and up). If you don't have a U.S. ID, ask in advance which ones are accepted.

Immigration visiting hours

Every Saturday

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Arrive early. Check-in starts before visiting time, and visitors who arrive near the end may not be processed. Each person has a turn based on their housing unit: confirm yours when you call.

What to wear

Yes

- Closed-toe shoes with at least one strap around the heel.
- Blazers, jackets and cardigans (these are allowed).
- Simple, comfortable clothes.
- Skirts and dresses no shorter than three inches above the knee.

No

- Coats, parkas or puffy vests.
- Sandals, open-toe or wheeled shoes.
- Hoodies, sweatpants, clothes with holes, or khaki, tan or beige clothing.
- Leggings or spandex, see-through or low-cut clothes, hats, scarves or sunglasses.

If clothing keeps you from getting in, **we can help at the tent** with appropriate items.



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With children

- Children under 16 must come with a parent or guardian. Minors under 18 need a parent's signature.
- Each adult is responsible for the children's behavior. If they are very disruptive, the visit can be canceled.
- The limit is four visitors at a time. A child aged 4 or under who stays on a lap doesn't count.
- For a baby you may bring: two diapers, one small blanket and one bottle of formula.
- Explain in simple, honest words what they will see. Listen to their questions.

The day of the visit

- 1 **Arrive with time to spare.** In the lobby, store your phone, wallet, keys, watch and papers in a locker.
- 2 **Don't bring** packages, gifts, food, medicine or papers. Ask first if you want to bring a photo or drawing.
- 3 **You'll pass through a metal detector.** You may be asked to remove shoes, belt or glasses. You will sign a visitor notice and get a hand stamp.
- 4 **During the visit,** talk about what connects you. It is not the time to solve the case.
- 5 **When you leave,** let yourself feel whatever comes. Eat something, drink water and don't stay alone.

How to find someone, and other useful things

- **ICE detainee locator:** locator.ice.gov (you need the A-number, or name and country of birth).
- **Information about the detained person:** 718-840-4200.
- **Money:** don't send it to the MDC's address. Ask first which method is authorized.
- **Attorney:** legal visits are separate and arranged by their attorney.

If you are turned away

- Stay calm and ask the reason: ID, clothing, list or time.
- Don't argue with staff. Note what you were told.
- Come back another day. Tell us what happened and we'll help you prepare.
- If the reason is your immigration status or a record, talk with an attorney before returning.

Take care of yourself

Visiting takes a lot. It's normal to feel nervous, sad, angry or relieved, sometimes all in the same hour. Nobody should process this alone.

Dignity Toolkit: (561) 445-6141 (call or text)

The Tent: Saturdays, during visits

MDC Brooklyn: 718-840-4200, 80 29th Street

Free legal help (ActionNYC): 800-354-0365 or 311

Based on ICE's information about the MDC and the Bureau of Prisons' visiting rules (2017 supplement). Rules change without notice: call 718-840-4200 before you go. General information, not legal advice.