

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTER-OMAHA

PROCEDURE

VISITING

REVISION DATE
December 31, 2023

NUMBER
205.02.001

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STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY

Law Library Access

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SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW

Language updated.

APPROVED:

S Settles

Shaun Settles, Warden
Community Corrections Center-Omaha

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PURPOSE

Procedure governing incarcerated individual visiting is necessary in order to attain the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services’ (NDCS) and the Community Corrections Center-Omaha (CCC-O) objectives to increase opportunities for individual self-development and to maintain a safe, secure and humane environment for the incarcerated population, team members, and the public. (ACRS-2A-02)

All persons desiring to visit an incarcerated individual residing at the CCC-O must be approved and listed in the visitor database. This requirement does not apply to attorneys, members of the media, or government officials. All regulations pertaining to visiting shall be made available to all incarcerated individuals, visitors, and team members to explain this program.

PROCESS

CCC-O will comply with the policy and subsequent attachments, in addition to the procedures herein as it applies to the community corrections facility.


The CCC-O visiting regulations and hours are posted in the dayroom. Copies of these visiting regulations may be provided to incarcerated individuals and visitors upon request.

I. REQUEST DISPOSITION (ACRS-5A-17)

- A. The assistant warden or designee will review the completed *Visiting Request* form for approval or denial. The assistant warden or designee may initiate appropriate further background checks. If a prospective visitor is denied visiting privileges, such reason(s) need not be divulged to the individual, the incarcerated individual, or other parties for the purposes of security, custody, and control.**

A National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer check to verify visitor identity and to ensure the accuracy of the VRF information will be performed on all visit applications. Persons with criminal records will not automatically be excluded from visiting. The nature and extent of that person’s total criminal record, plus his or her history of recent criminal activity is weighed carefully against the benefits of visitation.

Parolees, probationers, or persons having pending charges will not be granted permission to visit during service of sentence. Ex-felons will not be granted permission to visit for a minimum of three years after the expiration of sentence. Ex-misdemeanants will not be granted permission to visit for six months after expiration of sentence. Immediate family members may be considered after three months. The warden or designee shall retain the final authority to review, assess and approve or disapprove all applications to visit. Appeals of denials must be submitted in writing to the warden.

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B. Scheduling a Visit

After approval of a visitation application, a visiting adult can schedule a visit.

1. To schedule a visit, go to the NDCS website at <https://www.corrections.nebraska.gov>.
2. From the home page, click on visiting hours or search “visitation” using the search feature.
3. Select the facility in which you wish to visit.
4. Click on the “Schedule a Visit” bar. The on-line form will appear. Complete the on-line form.
5. If you will be bringing any child(ren) to the visit, you must provide their names and the information requested in the on-line form. All children must have an approved visitation application on file.
6. Complete the visit preference dates including alternate dates/times and click “Submit”.
7. All visitation requests must be submitted at least seven days prior to the selected visit date.
8. Visits are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. You will receive an email notification at least three days in advance of your approved visit.
9. To cancel a scheduled visit for any reason, notify the facility as soon as possible.
10. You must arrive to the facility 15 – 30 minutes prior to your approved visit for processing. Late arrivals will not be processed.
11. Be sure to read all the current visitation rules and updates on the website PRIOR to the date of your approved visit. If you have further questions about your visit, it is recommended you contact the facility prior to your approved visit.

II. SPECIAL VISITS (ACRS-5A-18)

Immediate family members whose V.R.F.’s have been denied may be allowed to visit once per month through a special visit request with the approval of the warden or designee. It will be the responsibility of the immediate family member requesting the visiting privileges to initiate this request. Special visits may also be granted to accommodate family visitors who are on the incarcerated individuals approved visiting list and visit infrequently because of long distance (more than 200 miles from the facility). Limitations may be imposed by the facility due to space or staffing restrictions. Special visits may be granted for reasons of hospitalization.

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Persons not on an incarcerated individuals approved visiting list who may be considered for special visiting privileges include prospective employers, attorneys, members of the clergy and social service representatives. Special visits will be scheduled during regular visiting hours whenever possible. (ACRS-6A-01)

A special visit may be requested by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) team members for court ordered agency supervised visits. In these instances, DHHS officials must provide NDCS a copy of the court order, the name of the DHHS team member or contract service provider assigned to supervise the visit, the name(s) and age(s) of the child(ren) who will be visiting and the requested date/time for the court ordered visit. The Special Visit form will then be completed by a designated NDCS team member for approval by the warden/designee. These special visits will normally take place during normal visiting hours; however, so as not to unreasonably deny the special visit, DHHS team member/contract provider schedules may necessitate these visits occur outside of the normal visiting hours but within normal business hours. When facilitating court ordered visits, it is not necessary for the DHHS team member/contract provider or the minor children to complete Visitor Request Forms or present a birth certificate. The DHHS team members/contract provider is required to present a DHHS/contracted service provider photo identification card to NDCS at the time of the visit.

III. VISITING AREA (ACRS-5A-23)

The CCC-O will utilize its common area for visiting. The visiting area has the capacity to accommodate 76 people. Visitors will be required to wait outside the facility once the visiting area reaches capacity. The visiting area will be searched by CCC-O team members prior to and after visiting and search reports will be submitted to the assistant warden.

IV. VISITING DAYS AND HOURS (ACRS-5A-17)


The visiting hours at the CCC-O are 12:30 p.m. to 1:45PM for session 1 and 2:45PM to 4:00PM for session 2. Saturdays are for incarcerated individuals with the last name A-L, and Sundays are M-Z. Holiday visiting will occur only on New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Holiday visiting hours will be session 1, 12:30PM to 1:45PM A-L incarcerated individuals and session 2, 2:45PM to 4:00PM M-Z incarcerated individuals.

V. INPROCESSING VISITORS

A. Visitor Identification (ACRS-2A-02)

All adult visitors must have a photo identification card in order to visit. Only visitors of verified identity and listed on an incarcerated individual's authorized visiting list may visit. A driver's license without a picture is not acceptable. The following I.D. and/or documents may be used as proper identification:

1. Driver's license with photo
2. Employee identification cards
3. Military I.D. cards
4. Passports

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5. Welfare Card (Must be current with SSN, signature and HEW issue)

B. Visiting Log

All visitors will be required to sign in on the visitor’s log with their full name, date, relationship, and the name of the incarcerated individual they are visiting. Identification of all visitors will be carefully checked and compared with the visitor database list to ensure that they are authorized to visit a specific incarcerated individual. (ACRS-2A-02) This list is confidential and is not revealed in whole or in part to the public without the express written consent of the incarcerated individual.

C. Search of Visitors and/or Their Belongings

The security and control of the facility and the safety and welfare of all incarcerated individuals, team members and visitors are of concern to CCC-O. Searches are conducted to help maintain a safe environment for all and are done to discover and prevent the exchange of contraband or unauthorized articles between incarcerated individuals and other individuals, and discover hazards of fire, health, safety, and security. All searches will be conducted in the bathroom of the facility.

Visitors will be subjected to property searches prior to gaining access to the facility. (ACRS-2A-02) All items being carried in by visitors will be closely checked for contraband. Visitors may be pat searched when searches are randomly conducted on team members, incarcerated individuals, or when ordered by the warden or designee based upon a reasonable suspicion that contraband is being concealed. Pat searches of visitors will always be conducted by a team member of the same gender. Female visitors will not be asked to lift their skirts or dresses. Safety searches of visitors may only be conducted with the approval of the warden.


Visitors may be subjected to unannounced Ion scanner or metal detector. The intent of the searches is to detect drugs or other contraband.

E. Authorized Items for Visitors

All visitors are encouraged to secure their personal property in their vehicles; however, lockers are available in the commons area for limited storage of personal items while visiting. Visitors are provided with a locker where a quarter is exchanged for a key. The quarter is returned upon receipt of the key.

F. Visitor Responsibilities, Conduct and Behavior (ACRS-2A-02)

It is the responsibility of the visitor and the incarcerated individual to conduct themselves in a manner that will not bring discredit upon themselves or be disruptive to other visitors in the area. Visitors must obey posted rules and regulations.

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It is the responsibility of the visitor to supervise and maintain control over accompanying children. Neither visitors nor incarcerated individuals are permitted to use corporal punishment on children or others at the CCC-O. If a child becomes disruptive during a visit and is not controlled by verbal direction, the visit may be terminated.

Physical contact between visitors and incarcerated individuals is limited to a brief kiss and a short embrace at the beginning and end of the visit. Caressing is prohibited. Incarcerated individuals on “No Contact” status will not have contact with a minor at any time, including the beginning and end of visits. Visitors and incarcerated individuals will not be allowed to sit on each other’s laps or straddle chairs, benches, etc. Children aged four (4) and above are not allowed to sit on any incarcerated individuals lap. Minor children must be accompanied by an adult and restricted from running about the facility. Visiting will occur only in areas reserved for visiting.

All visitors will use the public restrooms in the lobby area. All children must be accompanied to and from the restroom by their adult visitor.

VI. ATTORNEY VISITS (ACRS-6A-01)

Attorney visits will be coordinated through each incarcerated individual’s case manager. Case managers will use the special visiting form to approve attorney visits. The CCC-O conference room may be utilized for confidential visits if arranged in advance with the case manager. Attorney visits that are not coordinated in advance may be conducted with the approval of the warden or designee.

VII. VISITATION RESTRICTION (ACRS-5A-17)


It is the policy of the CCC-O to encourage visits between members of the community and the incarcerated population as a means to enhance the transition process. Incarcerated individuals and visitors share a responsibility with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) for proper conduct during the visiting process. Actions that may result in either temporary or permanent restrictions are detailed in the Policy 205.02, *Visiting*.

VIII. VISITATION SUSPENSION (ACRS-5A-17)

The warden may suspend the visiting privileges of a visitor by stating the fact in a letter to the person and citing the reasons for it. The statement of reasons may be deleted if it would jeopardize the security of the facility or the safety of any individual. The incarcerated individual involved will also receive a copy of the letter. The warden will also specify the duration of the suspension. Visitors that are suspended from visiting at one NDCS facility are suspended from visiting at all NDCS facilities. Exceptions may be considered by the warden if immediate family members are involved.

IX. VISIT TERMINATION (ACRS-5A-17)

Visits can be terminated at any time at the discretion of the CCC-O team members on duty for any violation of the posted visiting rules and regulations.

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X. VISIT DELETIONS

Any incarcerated individual may request that one or more persons be deleted from their approved visiting list by completing a “Visitor Deletion” form (Policy, 205.02 attachment C). The deleted visitor will not be placed on another incarcerated individual’s visiting list for six months. The deleted visitor will not be reinstated for six months. Visitors may also submit a letter to the warden requesting to be deleted from an incarcerated individual’s visiting list. Visitor requested deletions will also require the visitor to wait six months before they may be placed on another incarcerated individual’s visiting list. The warden may waive the six-month waiting period if a visitor requesting deletion has not visited for a period of six months. Visitors will be deleted from the visiting lists of those incarcerated individuals placed on parole, escape, or walk-away status.

The records office will delete previously approved visitors from the computer files and stamp “Deleted” on the visitor application forms when an incarcerated individual is released, escapes, paroled or is put on bond.

XI. INMATE TO INMATE VISITS (ACRS-5A-18)

CCC-O incarcerated individuals who have a member(s) of the same immediate family incarcerated in different NDCS facilities may be allowed to visit one another at that facility. The incarcerated individual must request the special visit on a personal needs furlough through their assigned case manager. The visit must be approved by both the warden and the facility/program administrator of the other facility or program. Incarcerated individual to incarcerated individual visits may be approved once every three months. CCC-O incarcerated individuals will present their ID card to the pass clerk at the secure facility and be safety searched before entering and exiting the facility.

XII. VIRTUAL VISITATION

The Virtual Visitation Program (VVP) is designed to strengthen community supports to improve quality of life during and after incarceration. The program supplements the in-person visitation opportunities, offering incarcerated individuals and their family members and/or friends a virtual visit using an online platform (e.g., Zoom, Webex, Skype) to encourage communication and support. Conversation prompts may be provided to assist in positive, pro-social communication. Program effectiveness will be measured by self-report using a post-visit-survey. Other measurable outcomes may include a decrease in negative behaviors and increased participation in recommended treatment/programming (i.e., accepting a recommendation previously refused). In addition, it is expected that participants will have improved interactions with their peers and team members. See the *Virtual Visitation Program* (Policy 205.02, Attachment I) for more information.

REFERENCE

- I. Policy 205.02, *Visiting*
- II. Attachment(s): None
- III. ACA Standard(s): 4-ACRS-2A-02, 4-ACRS-5A-17, 4-ACRS-5A-18, 4-ACRS-5A-23 & 4-ACRS-6A-01