

V I S I T

How do I locate the inmate?

The Department welcomes family and friends who wish to visit at NSW correctional centres. Visits are important for strong family relationships and make it easier for people to readjust to life in the community when they are released.

Check with the correctional centre to see that the inmate has not been moved. To get information about where the person is located contact:

- Sentence Administration:
(02) 8346 1310 (9am to 5pm)
- Inmate Records:
(02) 9289 5258 (weekdays 5-10pm, and weekends 8.30am-4pm)

Who can visit?

Visits from family, friends and community are welcomed and encouraged. 1 - 4 adults can visit at one time.

The size of visit areas varies, so check with the centre if you want to bring a lot of children. Any visitor under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult.

B A S I C S

When can I visit?

Visiting hours at NSW correctional centres vary so you should contact the centre to find out the times for visits. Centre phone numbers are listed on pages 14 and 15 .

At most centres you will need to call and book your visit. Some centres only have visits on the weekend because the inmates are working during the week.

Remand facilities, such as the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre at Silverwater, have visits 6 days a week.

How long can I visit?

The length of visits will be different at each correctional centre. Please check with the individual centres.

Remember that in most centres **visits must be booked**. An inmate may also refuse contact with a visitor if she or he does not wish to have the visit.

How often can I visit?

The number of visits you can make depends on many things, so check with the centre.

What can I bring to a visit?

As a general rule bring as little as possible to a visit. Check with the correctional centre about facilities.

- In maximum security centres you will **not** be able to take anything in. This includes wallets, purses, money, cigarettes, prams, baby capsules, or play items for children
- Coins can be taken into centres where there are vending machines
- Check with the centre to see if you can take nappies into the visit area. Some centres supply disposable nappies for your use
- Some correctional centres have play equipment for young children
- Prams and baby capsules are not allowed in the visit area, although some centres do lend prams to visitors
- Put any personal property in a visitor locker (if one is available)



What about food and drinks?

This is an area where rules change from centre to centre so it's very important to ring and check if food and drinks are available.

- At some maximum security visit areas the consumption of food and drink is restricted for both adults and children
- Only one bottle and unopened baby food for babies can be brought into correctional centre visit areas. Some centres will allow other food for babies and toddlers but the containers may be searched
- Nursing mothers can breastfeed their babies and staff will assist by providing a discreet area

Can I buy food?

- There are vending machines for snacks and drinks at some correctional centres. Some centres also sell meat packs for BBQs (e.g. minimum security centres)
- At some correctional centres there are canteens with more food choices

Can I smoke during a visit?

No, if the visit area is enclosed. If the visit area is out of doors smoking may be permitted.

Can I take my medication into a visit area?

If you need to take medication into the correctional centre you'll need to show it to the officer at the gate before you go in.

- For security reasons medication must be handed to the visits processing officer. Ask the officer for it when you need it
- Please make sure that your medication is in its properly labelled container
- If you have prescribed medication you should carry it in the original package which has your name on it
- It would be advisable if you brought the prescription or doctor's certificate

Can I give things to inmates?

There are restrictions on the type and amount of property inmates are allowed to have. You must check with the correctional centre before deciding to take in anything for an inmate.

You are not allowed to physically hand any property to inmates. Anything you are allowed to take in must be given to the officer at the gate, who will then pass it on to visit staff.