

Iowa State Penitentiary Visiting Rules

Visiting Rules

Iowa State Penitentiary
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Visiting is allowed Friday-Monday from 8:00 – 4:30.

All rules are for the safety and security of the visitor and the offender. Below is a simple list of rules that will ensure your visit goes smoothly. If there are any questions or concerns you are encouraged to ask a staff member. You will be asked to present a Photo ID.

1. Items not allowed in the VR include;
 - Money, coins or folded money,
 - Watches of any kind
 - Phones, beepers or other electronic devices—all electronic items must be turned off if stored in lockers.
 - Purses shall be left in the car or placed in lobby lockers
 - Smoking or tobacco products of any kind, including vapor
2. All individuals on grounds must be visiting. Those not visiting are not allowed to loiter on State property.
3. The institution shall furnish paper and pencil for use during the visit. These items may be obtained from the Visiting Officer and shall remain in the visiting room.
4. Infant supplies of one infant blanket, three diapers, a baby bottle, and two sealed containers of infant food, (toddler food is allowed provided it is labeled such as “Gerber Graduates” or like product) and one pacifier, and one toy are permitted, but no diaper bags. No metal or glass products. A Sippy-cup may be allowed if see-through or clear and must be empty entering and leaving the facility.
5. Up to ten single, approved photographs may be taken into a visit. (This total is per visit, not each visitor.)
6. Visitors shall be allowed to retain medically required items such as inhalers, orthopedic braces, nitroglycerin tablets, etc., but may be required to show medical verification for that necessity. The physician should include, in his/her signed and dated verification, the duration of need.
7. All items taken into visiting must be declared and must be accounted for upon leaving.
8. No one shall be allowed to introduce contraband into the institution. Contraband shall include but not be limited to firearms, ammunition, knives, flammable substances, incendiary devices, tobacco products, or dangerous drugs or intoxicants.

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9. The offender and his visitor may briefly embrace and kiss at the beginning and at the termination of the visit. Holding hands above the lap, which shall be in view at all times, is the only physical contact permitted while visiting. Offenders may hold small children.
10. Offenders and visitors may only associate with their visiting party and not with other offenders or visitors.
11. Bathrooms located in the VR are for visitors only.
12. Visitors shall not purchase items from the vending machines for offenders or visitors outside their visiting party. Items purchased from the vending machines must be consumed in the Visiting Room.
13. Only one person at a time will be allowed to go to vending machines. A child that is 12 years old and under will be allowed to accompany the offender to the vending machines if they wish.
14. Offenders and visitors shall not put their feet on the furniture, nor shall the offender or visitor(s) rearrange furniture, chairs shall not be turned sideways. All furnishings shall be used as intended, e.g., seats for sitting, tables for writing (not sitting), etc. The Visiting Room Officer will be responsible for adding the additional chair(s) to the configuration when the offender must sit at the head of the table.
15. Visiting room staff shall assign a specific table where the visit is to be held.
16. Offenders and visitors are not permitted to walk around the visiting room except to manage children or to use the restrooms.
17. The Visiting Officer shall control access to the restrooms. Only one person at a time shall be permitted in the restroom, except when an adult visitor is accompanying a child, all children must be escorted to the restroom by the adult visitor.
18. Offenders shall be pat searched prior to entering as well as upon exit of the offender restroom. This pat search shall be performed as discreetly as possible.
19. Questions during the visit shall be directed to one of the Visiting Room Officers.
20. Once a visitor or offender leaves the visiting area, the visit shall be ended for that day.
21. Upon conclusion of the visit, visitors shall retrieve personal items stored in the public lobby lockers. Any unauthorized items or personal property, which the visitor fails to collect following visitation with an offender, shall be destroyed.

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Appropriate Attire:

1. Visitors shall be properly dressed throughout the entire visiting process. Properly attired clothing includes the wearing of appropriate undergarments such as bras and underpants.
2. All visitors shall wear shoes. Visitors are not allowed to remove their Jewelry, shoes or other clothing items during the visit process.
3. Visitors wearing miniskirts, shorts, muscle shirts, low cut shirts, see-through clothing, and jeans with holes or halter tops will not be allowed to visit.

The following are not allowed; Watches, miniskirts (defined as anything above the knee or a dress that has a slit up the side higher than the knee). Any type of shirt that shows the bare shoulders, midriff or back nor low cut shirts that shows cleavage are not allowed. Metal headbands, flowers in hair, scarves or other decorative hair item are not allowed. (Rubber bands, scrunchies, or regular hair tie is acceptable.)

Neither adults nor teenagers are allowed to wear shorts.

Manipulation of clothing that alters decency standards shall not be allowed during the duration of the visit.

4. Visitors wearing clothing with slogans, pictures, or words intended to deprecate race, sex, or cultural values will not be allowed entry. This includes articles of clothing that may be interpreted as depicting security threat group messages or affiliations.
5. Visitors shall be required to remove and store all outerwear, such as, but not limited to, coats, hats, gloves, or sunglasses. These items are not allowed in the visiting room and shall be secured in the vehicle or assigned locker in the reception area.