



# FRANKLIN COUNTY JAIL

Chambersburg, PA

## Standard Operating Procedure

<b>Chapter:</b>	400	Inmate Programs	<b>Number:</b>	401	<b>Pages:</b>	11
<b>Title:</b>	401	Visitation - Personal	<b>Date Signed:</b>		8/18/2015	
<b>Approved By:</b>	<i>Christopher A. Schell</i> Christopher A. Schell, Warden		<b>Revised Date:</b>		05/03/2024	

### POLICY

Inmates will be provided the opportunity for visitation with family and friends. Rules and regulations will be made available to staff, visitors and inmates. All visitors and vehicles are subject to search at any time. Visitation is a privilege, not a right. Visiting is an integral component of facility management, Inmate habilitation and community safety. Visiting can improve public safety and encourage responsible familial relationships by holding Inmate(s) accountable and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior. This policy establishes guidelines that govern the visits for both Inmate(s) and visitors.

### PURPOSE

To aid in the re-entry/re-engagement process by enabling inmates to maintain their family unit and community ties during incarceration, while satisfying the security requirements of the Franklin County Jail (FCJ).

### REFERENCES

ACA 4-ALDF-5B-01 through 5B-04

37 Pa. Code § 95.233 Visiting

61 Pa. Code § 35.b

PA Title 75 15.1515

### DEFINITIONS

#### Ex-Offender

A person confined to Franklin County Jail within the last six (6) months

#### Familial relationship:

a person who is related to an official or employee by blood, marriage or adoption

**Inmate:** *(For this Policy Only)*

An individual who is Unsentenced, sentenced, or convicted of an offense but awaiting sentencing or a trial

**Public Visitor**

Any individual who officially engages in approved Returning Citizen(s) visit using the facility visiting rooms.

**Social Worker**

Is a person with education, training and possibly licensure, and employment in providing Social Services.

**Special Visit**

A visit approved outside the normal visiting hours or an additional visit as allowed by policy.

**Video Visitation**

Will be utilized through the Housing Unit Tablets for face-to-face Video Visitation

The Video Visitation software will allow Returning Citizens and visitors to visit at a distance as opposed to face-to-face. It allows people with a computer, internet, webcam, and credit card to communicate with Returning Citizen(s) at the facility.

**Familial relationship:**

A person who is related to an official or employee by blood, marriage or adoption

**PROCEDURES**

**1. Correctional Planning, Goals and Mission.**

1.1. When authorized visitation at Franklin County Jail is permitted, neither as a matter of right nor as a privilege of the Inmate or the Inmate’s visitor; rather, visitation at FCJ is permitted by the Administration when it furthers the Inmate’s correctional planning, goals, and mission and is consistent with the safe, secure, and orderly management and operation of the facility.

**2. Franklin County Jail Stance.**

2.1. Franklin County Jail is committed to encouraging pro-social relationships particularly between Inmate(s), their family members, and their friends.

2.2. Studies have shown that visitation and more frequent visitation are both associated with lower rates of recidivism. Therefore, FCJ recognizes that visitation is an important part of each Inmate’s rehabilitation and visits serve to maintain ties for the Inmate’s eventual transition back into the community.

2.3. At the same time, FCJ must provide for the safety and security of each facility, staff, Inmate(s), visitors and the public.

### 3. General Requirements

- 3.1. Visitors will only park in the designated area or be towed at the owner's expense.
- 3.2. All visitors, including vendors and contractors, and their possessions are subject to search.
- 3.3. Visitors, who, in the opinion of staff, appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or whose presence disrupts other visitors, will not be approved for entrance in to the facility.
  - 3.3.1. The shift supervisor will be immediately notified and will deny the visit. When appropriate the shift supervisor will notify outside law enforcement.
- 3.4. The use of obscene language or other conduct of a disorderly nature is prohibited. The shift supervisor will be immediately notified and will deny or terminate the visit. When appropriate the shift supervisor will notify outside law enforcement.
  - 3.4.1. The shift supervisor will be notified immediately in the event a visit is terminated.
- 3.5. All visitors are required to comply with staff requests.
- 3.6. Food or beverages not purchased from the vending machines in the lobby are not permitted in the facility.
- 3.7. Visitors must wait in the lobby. Visitors may return to wait in their vehicles but will not be permitted to wait outside of the building.
- 3.8. A visitation schedule will be posted on all housing units.
- 3.9. Inmates will be permitted to leave scheduled programs if they choose to do so (i.e. Drug & Alcohol, educational, counseling, religious, etc.). Inmates must understand that leaving a scheduled program for an unexcused reason may result in consequences
- 3.10. Visitors may visit only one inmate at a time.
- 3.11. Visitors who plan to visit more than one inmate must return to the lobby and re-register.
  - 3.11.1. Visitors are not permitted to begin another visit with additional inmates without re-registering. The visitor will be required to wait if the next visiting area is not immediately available
- 3.12. A visit will occupy up to two chairs.
  - 3.12.1. A visit can include up to 2 adults and 2 children that are small enough to reasonably be held in a lap.
  - 3.12.2. The officer will use the age of three and under as guidance when making determination of a child's ability for a lap visit.
- 3.13. FCJ offers non-contact visitation.
- 3.14. Visiting hours are Monday through Friday.

Inmates may have one (1) personal visit per week.

Work Release Inmates 0900 - 2100

All Others 1500 – 2100

3.15. Visitation time limits are as follows:

3.15.1. General Population, Work Release and ASMH may exceed one (1) hour, if there are no other visitors to accommodate.

- GP – One (1) hour minimum
- WR – One (1) hour minimum
- ASMH – One (1) hour minimum
- PC – One (1) hour maximum
- Pre-hearing DS – Thirty (30) minutes maximum
- ASS –Thirty (30) minutes maximum
- DS – Thirty (30) minutes maximum
- Inmates serving any sanction on an informal adjustment will receive a thirty (30) minute maximum visit

#### **4. Visitors must be dressed appropriately.**

4.1. Shorts shall cover customarily covered areas of the anatomy, including the buttocks and crotch area, both when standing and sitting. Shorts no higher than mid-thigh.

4.2. Skirts or dresses must be knee length or longer

4.3. Items considered inappropriate include:

- Cut offs, short shorts, skirts or skorts (above mid-thigh)
- Mini-skirts or dresses with splits that extend above mid-thigh
- Tube tops
- Tank tops / Athletic shirts (regardless of gender)
- Spaghetti straps
- Midriff baring shirts
- Low cut / revealing shirts or blouses
- See-through or transparent clothing
- Spandex (skintight) leggings or jeggings
- Bathing suits, aerobic attire or pajamas
- Hooded Garments or any type of head coverings - excluding religious coverings
- Coats/Jackets/Vests or other outer garments - excluding suit coats, sport coats, blazers, and cardigan type sweaters.
- Clothing containing offensive language or images
- Materials depicting messages or images that contain reference to drugs or alcohol
- Anything that appears to be gang-related

4.4. Ragged or torn clothing that is considered revealing

## 5. Visitor Registration

- 5.1. Registration All visitors are required to register in the lobby.
  - Each visitor will **legibly** register on the Visitor Register (FCJ Form 400.01-2) with complete name and address, and the name of the inmate visiting.
  - The address must match the address on the visitor's identification card (ID). Adults must register for children.
  - All visitors must be present and register together.
- 5.2. The Lobby Officer will ensure the visitor is appropriately dressed, and shoes are worn. The visit will be denied if the visitor is not properly dressed as per section 4.
- 5.3. The Lobby Officer will look up the Inmate in the Offender Management System to verify the inmate is present in the facility, has been cleared from the initial quarantine period and has not already had a visit for the week.
  - 5.3.1. Inmates must be cleared from initial quarantine prior to any visit.
- 5.4. If the inmate is present the Lobby Officer will request to see valid and current photo ID. Acceptable forms of ID are:
  - A State Driver's License
  - A State ID card
  - Government Issued Passport; (with Visa for Foreign Nationals)
  - **NOTE:** US Mail, utility bills, credit cards etc. will **NOT** be used to verify address or used for ID.
- 5.5. The Lobby Officer will ensure the ID is valid. If the ID is not valid the visit will be denied. Expired identification, photocopies or electronic of identification are not valid.
- 5.6. Once the ID has been approved and the visitor's information entered into Offender Management System, the Lobby Officer will ensure space is available in the appropriate unit Visiting Room. If there is no space available, the visitor will be informed of the need to wait. Visits are first-come first-served by unit.
- 5.7. The Lobby Officer will enter a visitor's information into the Offender Management System to include the number of the State ID, or Passport and Visa.
- 5.8. While entering a **Visitor's** information the Lobby Officer will ensure:
  - the visitor is not suspended
  - has not had visiting privileges revoked
  - is not a former inmate of the FCJ that has not been out of jail for at least six (6) months.
- 5.9. When space is available the Lobby Officer will contact the appropriate Housing Unit Officer with the name of the inmate who has a visitor. The Housing Unit Officer will inform the Lobby Officer if the inmate is not present on the unit and the inmate's location.

- 5.9.1. If the inmate is off of the unit due to Sick Call or Dentist Call, the Lobby Officer will inform the visitor that the inmate is unavailable and may recommend waiting or returning at a later time.
- 5.9.2. If the inmate is attending an off-unit program, the Lobby Officer will contact the appropriate classroom. If the inmate wishes to attend the visit, he must understand that there may be consequences.
- 5.10. The Housing Unit Officer will inform the inmate of the visit if on the unit.
- 5.11. Inmates may request the identity of visitors by asking the Housing Unit Officer. The Housing Unit Officer will contact the Lobby Officer for this information.
  - 5.11.1. Inmates may refuse visits if they choose to do so.
  - 5.11.2. The refusal will be relayed to the Lobby Officer via telephone or radio.
  - 5.11.3. This will not be counted as the weekly visit; however, if a visit is refused after the visitor or inmate is in the Visiting Room, this will count as the weekly visit.
- 5.12. If the inmate refuses the visit the Lobby Officer will inform the visitor.
- 5.13. Upon entering the facility, all visitors may place their valuables in the lockers provided (in the public lobby area).
  - 5.13.1. Coats and other outerwear will be hung on the provided racks in the lobby and not taken to visiting rooms.
  - 5.13.2. Phones are prohibited; if the visitor has a phone, they will need to secure the phone in the Lobby lockers. Noting: FCJ will not be responsible for such items in the Lobby lockers.
  - 5.13.3. The visitor will be permitted to keep one bank/credit card on them for use of the vending machines located in the front lobby and on the second floor.
- 5.14. All visitors are subject to all rules and regulations governing visits. Any violation of these rules or regulations may result in termination of a visit and suspension of future visitation privileges.
- 5.15. Visitors must successfully clear the metal detector (FCJ SOP 200.12 – Searches).
  - 5.15.1. If the alarm sounds, the visitor is asked to step back and given the opportunity to search themselves to find what is causing the alarm to sound and proceed through the detector again. No visitor is allowed to proceed to the visit unless s/he has passed through the detector without causing the alarm to sound or by confirming acceptable metal items via the hand held metal detector.
  - 5.15.2. Any visitor unable to pass through or successfully clear the metal detector due to medical reasons (pacemaker, artificial joint, brace, wheelchair, crutches, cane etc.), must also be checked with a hand held metal detector.
  - 5.15.3. If the visitor fails to pass the hand held metal detector successfully, the visitor is given a choice of a limited visual search at the site of the metal detection (non-private areas

such as feet, ankles, knees, elbows), being denied the visit or submit to a pat down search.

5.15.4. If the visitor agrees to a pat down search, a Lieutenant will be contacted. The visitor will be instructed to sign the Visitor Pat Down Search Acknowledgement form. The search will be conducted by an officer of the same sex as the person being searched and a Lieutenant present.

5.15.4.1. **Ordinarily visitors will not be subjected to a strip search** and all measures will be taken to maintain the dignity of the person being searched. Only the Warden can approve a strip search by staff.

5.15.5. Jackets/coats/vests and are not permitted inside the jail. Coat racks are provided in the lobby. Professional suit jackets or blazers may be worn but must pass the metal detector and x-ray machine.

5.15.6. Items permitted inside the secure perimeter, such as baby bottle, blanket, etc must be scanned and cleared by the x-ray machine prior to entry.

5.15.7. The start time of the visit will be entered into the automated Visitor Log in the Offender Management System.

## 6. Visitor Approval

6.1. All visitors eighteen (18) years of age and older must have valid photo ID.

6.2. A parent or legal guardian **must** accompany children under the age of eighteen (18). A completed Parent or Legal Guardian Certification (FCJ Form 400.01-1), attesting to that fact, will be maintained in a log book.

6.2.1. Jail Staff will NOT demand a Birth Certificate, Legal or Court documentation requiring proof of guardianship; the individual's signature will be sufficient.

6.2.2. **The child's visiting record will be listed on the Visitor Register and in the Offender Management System.**

6.3. All visitors and vehicles are subject to search (FCJ SOP 200.12 - Searches). Refusal to submit to any search will result in the revocation of visiting privileges indefinitely.

6.4. The Lobby Officer will notify the shift supervisor if there is reason to believe that a visitor is concealing contraband.

6.5. A Visitor Consent to Search (FCJ Form 200.12-1) will be completed and signed prior to a pat search being conducted on a visitor.

6.6. Any contraband that is found on a visitor will be handled in accordance with FCJ SOP 200.13 – Contraband.

## 7. Termination/Denial/ or Restriction of Visits or Visitors

7.1. Staff will not deny a visit to an individual based on the belief the visitor is the victim of the inmate's crime. The jail does not have the ability to adequately track, document and maintain updated crime victim status.

- 7.2. Visitation procedures may be altered in the case of an emergency.
- 7.3. The Warden or in his/her absence the Deputy Warden(s), reserves the authority to restrict, deny or suspend the visiting privileges of a visitor whenever necessary to ensure the security, safety, and order of the facility.
  - 7.3.1. The Warden or in his/her absence the Deputy Warden(s), may restrict visits based on written requests from Law Enforcement officials or by court order.
  - 7.3.2. If a visitor has visiting privileges suspended or revoked, the dates and reason will be entered in the Offender Management System.
- 7.4. All visits that are denied for any reason just prior to the visit taking place will be entered in the Denied Visits Log (FCJ Form 400.01-3). Additionally, an Incident Report (FCJ Form 100.23-1) will be submitted. An Incident Report will be required any time a visitor becomes confrontational.
  - 7.4.1. All denied visits shall be approved by the shift supervisor. The only exception to this will be during an emergency situation. The shift supervisor will then be notified as soon as possible.
  - 7.4.2. The shift supervisor is responsible for signing the Denied Visits Log when a visitor is denied.
  - 7.4.3. Reasons a visit or visitor will be denied include but are not limited to:
    - Inmate refusal
    - Inmate is not available
    - Wrong day or time
    - Expired/Invalid ID or no ID
    - Visitor unable to clear metal detector or handheld
    - Visitor is inappropriately dressed
    - Visitor is not compliant with staff requests (Incident Report required)
    - Visitor appears intoxicated or smells of alcohol
    - Child(ren) not being supervised or being disruptive (Incident Report required)
    - Visitor intentionally providing false information
    - Requested visitor is a former inmate of the FCJ not out of jail for at least six (6) months
    - Requested visitor's visiting privileges have been suspended or revoked

## **8. Visitation**

- 8.1. The Housing Unit Officer will key the inmate into the Visiting Room. Inmates will not take any food or beverages into the visiting room.
  - 8.1.1. For inmates under a status requiring them to be handcuffed, restraints will need to be placed in the front with appropriate restraining devices, in order for the visitation handset to be used



- 8.1.2. An officer may remain posted outside the inmate-side of the visitation room for the duration of the visit for any inmate in restraints or otherwise requiring an escort; however, the officer should use their discretion in deciding if that is necessary or not.
- 8.2. The Lobby Officer will notify the Housing Unit Officer when to end a visit due to other visitors waiting.
- 8.3. The Housing Unit Officer will go to the Visiting Room to inform the inmate the visit is over.
- 8.4. The visitor and inmate will then exit the Visiting Room.
  - 8.4.1. Visitors will report to the elevator lobby where they will be processed out by the lobby officer.
  - 8.4.2. The Lobby Officer will enter the time they are leaving the facility on the Visitor Register.
  - 8.4.3. Loitering is not permitted.
- 8.5. The Lobby Officer will enter the end time of the visit into the automated Visitor Log in the Offender Management System.

## **9. Visitor is a Juvenile Spouse of an Inmate**

- 9.1. If the spouse of an inmate is a juvenile, an original or certified copy of the marriage certificate must be shown in addition to ID

## **10. Employee/ Contracted Employee Visits and Contact with Inmates**

- 10.1. An employee or contracted employee may not visit or otherwise make or have contact, with an inmate, with the exception of official business regardless of duty status (on or off). This includes inmates who may be on Approved Temporary Absence (ATA) status at another facility.
  - 10.1.1. The only exception to this policy is a Familial relationship to the inmate.
  - 10.1.2. The employee or contracted employee must obtain written permission from the Warden or in his/her absence the Deputy Warden(s), have other types of contact with the inmate (i.e. mail, telephone) or provide monetary assistance.
- 10.2. A former employee or contracted employee must obtain written permission from the Warden or in his/her absence the Deputy Warden(s) to visit any inmate within (2) two years of terminating employment.
- 10.3. All visits approved under this section shall take place in the Handicap Visitation Room

## **11. Visitors with Babies**

- 11.1. Visitors with babies may bring in one (1) baby bottle, one (1) **small** receiving type blanket, and one (1) pacifier. Baby carriers or strollers are not permitted.

## **12. Supervision of Children**

- 12.1. Children will remain under the constant supervision of legal parent or guardian.

- 12.2. Children will remain seated in the lobby and Visiting Room at all times.
- 12.3. If a child is left unattended, is allowed to run free or displays disruptive behavior **the visit will be terminated or denied if prior to the start of the visit.**

### **13. Special Visits**

- 13.1. Inmates and others may request special visits due to extenuating circumstances. Requests for special visits will be submitted to the Warden or in his/her absence the Deputy Warden(s), for approval. Special visits will be considered on a case by case basis. If a special visit is approved, the written approval will be supplied to the shift supervisor and the Lobby Officer along with the date, time and length of the special visit.
- 13.2. Requests for contact visits will be submitted to the Deputy Warden of Inmate Services, or designee, for approval. Contact visits will be considered on a case by case basis. If a contact visit is approved, the written approval will be supplied to the shift supervisor and the Lobby Officer along with date, time and length of visit and contact allowed.

### **14. Inmates with Disabilities**

- 14.1. Inmates with disabilities or who are otherwise unable to reach the Visiting Room on their housing unit will conduct visits in the handicap accessible Visiting Room.

### **15. Video Visitation**

- 15.1. Video Visitation will be utilized through the Housing Unit Tablets.
- 15.2. Video Visitation will give the Inmate(s) an additional means of communication to keep family ties stronger to aid in better acclimation to the free world.
- 15.3. Designated correctional staff will have the ability view in real time and terminate if any behavior violates tablet/visitation policy. Such action will suspend privileges from Inmate(s) and/or visitor
- 15.4. Recordings are typically stored for 60-90 days; however designated correctional staff will have the ability to download any recordings of special interest to a storage device

### **16. Hospital Visits**

- 16.1. Ordinarily, personal visitation while in the hospital will not be permitted (FCJ SOP 200.07 – Inmate Hospitalization Procedures).
- 16.2. Hospital visits are not allowed without the express permission of the Warden or in his/her absence Deputy Warden(s);
- 16.3. Hospital visits are only approved in extraordinary and unusual circumstances.
- 16.4. Only individuals on the Returning Citizen's visiting list may visit if approved.

### **17. Deathbed Visits**

- 17.1. Deathbed visits shall be approved by the Warden or in his/her absence the Deputy Warden(s);
- 17.2. The attending physician must make a prognosis that the Returning Citizen is unlikely to recover, and the death is the likely result;

17.3. If approved, only the individuals on the Inmate(s) approved visiting list may visit. Only two (2) adults and three (3) children may visit at any given time;

17.4. The Warden or in his/her absence Deputy Warden(s) shall set the number of visits.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

FCJ Form 200.12-1 – Visitor Consent to Search

FCJ Form 400.01-1 – Parent or Legal Guardian

FCJ Form 400.01-2 – Visitor Register

FCJ Form 400.01-3 – Denied Visits Log

Visitation Schedule