

You are entitled to one half-hour non-contact or box visit with your friends or family each week. For a person to visit they need to be on your Approved Visitor list. As soon as you are in prison you should put in a visit list with the names, addresses and birth dates of people who you would like to visit you (you can have up to 10 on the list). The prison can refuse to accept visits from anyone not on the list, even if they are friends or family. Visitors need to bring 100 points of ID with them when visiting. Not all government facilities count pieces of ID with the same points so it is best that visitors arrive with more than what they think is 100 points to be sure of being allowed in to the visit.

Visiting rules govern:

- how many people can visit you
- how long they can visit for
- how the visit is supervised
- whether the visits may be contact visits
- what ID and other information visitors have to give the prison
- what visitors can bring into the prison, and
- for what reasons visits can be refused and the visitors asked to leave

If you are in a management or high security unit, then the rules for visiting will be much different than in the mainstream units. For example, if you are charged with or convicted of a sex offense you will need special approval to have visits from children, and you will not be able to see other visitors in the same space as those with children visiting.

Visitor and phone list approval

The prison will screen those placed on your visitor and phone lists. The prison will also call those on your phone list to check whether they wish to receive calls from a prisoner. The prison will also re-check these lists randomly. Your people may be called a number of times throughout the year by the prison to verify if they are still willing to approve your phone calls. Only people on your visitors list can bring property or money in for you. There are also rules about what items may be brought in for you – each prison can supply information to your visitors about these rules.

Visitors with criminal histories

Visitors with criminal histories will usually have to request permission from the Prison Manager in writing if they want to be added to your visitor list. This may be done by writing a letter to the Prison Manager (see below for contact details). Visitors should bring copies of any paperwork with them to the visit in case there is any information missing from the system at reception. Prisons may also refuse or terminate a visit at any time if there are security concerns.

Further information

This fact sheet contains general information only and is not a substitute for obtaining legal advice. If you would like advice regarding a specific problem please contact one of the legal services listed in [contacts](#) or contact the Law Institute of Victoria's Legal Referral Service on 9607 9311.