

**VISITING RULES**

1. Inmate visiting schedules shall be posted. Visits may be canceled or adjusted at any time.
2. Inmate visits will be non-contact, unless so authorized. Unauthorized inmate contact is prohibited.
3. Inmates shall have the opportunity for two (2) social visits per week, (which must take place on separate days) or (but, are not allowed to have 2 visits on the same day), visits shall not exceed sixty (60) minutes in time and must take place during scheduled times, unless these privileges are suspended for inmates.
4. Visitor vehicles shall be parked inside Visitor's Parking Lots or risk being towed. Handicapped parking is available. All visitor vehicles shall be subject to search.
5. Visitors are permitted to wait thirty (30) minutes before a scheduled visit. They may wait inside their vehicle or the Security Reception Area. While waiting, visitors shall not violate facility rules. Loitering before/after a visit is prohibited. Smoking on property is prohibited.
6. Visitors lockers are available to store personal items. Visitors will be responsible for their locker keys. There is a small fee to use a visitor locker, which will be returned at the end of the visit.
7. Unless approved, weapons and ammo are not permitted on Sheriff's Office property. Weapon lockers and clearing stations are available for approved persons. Weapons/ammo are prohibited inside an inmate visiting room.
8. Visitors and their property shall be subject to search. Visitors who refuse or fail a search may have their visiting privileges revoked. Visitors must disclose any item, besides clothing, prior to visit.
9. Visitors may use the lobby kiosk at the Dartmouth House of Correction for depositing inmate money, The lobby will be open from 8AM-4PM daily, absent emergency situations. Visitors can not drop off mail or parcels for inmates.
10. Visitors are expected to behave appropriately and follow staff direction. Visitors shall only communicate with the inmate approved for their visit. Inappropriate language is not allowed.
11. Visitors must present a current/valid government issued photo ID before each visit. Attorneys and legal representatives must present valid bar cards. Religious leaders must present valid photo ID, verifying credentials. Visitor Passes will be issued to approved visitors.
12. Adult visitors will complete an Application to Visit an Inmate Form before each visit. Visitors that fail to accurately state information on the form may have their visiting privileges revoked.
13. Minor visitors (17 and younger) must be accompanied with an approved adult. Up to two (2) minors may visit with an inmate at the same time. A Minor Visit Consent Form must be approved before the visit. Visitors with infants may bring a receiving towel, pacifier and a plastic formula bottle during the visit, but not a diaper bag. Minor visits are subject to search. Approved adults shall be responsible for the behavior of minor visitors.
14. Former inmates must wait six (6) month after release or six (6) months cleared of probation/parole before they may be approved for inmate visits.
15. Visitors shall not speak on a cellular telephone while waiting inside a Security Reception Area.
16. Visitors shall vacate the premises when ordered to do so.
17. Visitors should contact the Sheriff's Office switchboard during inclement weather regarding cancellation of visits.

**ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:** The Sheriff's Office does not discriminate on the basis of disability in access to its programs and services. Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aides for effective communication or visit accommodations should contact the Superintendent's Office at 508-995-6400 during regular work hours. Visits at the Ash Street Jail shall be accommodated at the Dartmouth HOC for persons with difficulties climbing stairs. Standard visiting screening and approval protocols shall still apply.

**CONTRABAND ITEMS**

**Visitors shall not bring contraband into an inmate visiting room,. Final determination of contraband shall be made by the Security Reception Officer. Persons in violation of this rule are subject to arrest and criminal prosecution (M.G.L. C 268§ 31). This list is subject to change at any time.**

1. Handcuffs, restraints, cuff keys (unless authorized by the Sheriff's Office).
2. Scissors, nail clippers or any other sharp object.
3. Pens or pencils (except for attorneys, legal representatives, government officials, private investigators and media).
4. Non-prescription medication and prescribed drugs (except when approved with valid medical note.)
5. Food (including chewing gum), in any type of container and utensils.
6. Rings (except for wedding rings and rings that can not be removed).
7. Jewelry (earrings, toe rings, body piercings, etc.) except for medical alert bracelets/pendants. Jewelry (earrings, toe rings, body piercings, etc.) except for medical alert bracelets/pendants.
8. Watches (except for attorneys, legal representatives, government officials, media).
9. Money of any denomination, including pocket change.
10. Tobacco products of any kind, lighters, matches and smokeless tobacco or vape pens/products.
11. Alcohol, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia of any kind.
12. Nail polish, perfume, polish remover.
13. Letters or other mail, notes, photos, other documentation and information from the Internet, (except for attorneys, legal representative, government officials, private investigators and the media).
14. Newspapers, magazines or clippings from newspapers, internet or magazines, drawings (unless so authorized by the Security Control Officer).
15. Packages or gifts of any kind.
16. Umbrellas.
17. Diapers, diaper bags, non-plastic baby bottles.
18. Electric equipment (i.e. radios, TVs, cameras, MP3 players, laptops, tablets, cellular telephones, internet connecting devices, Fit-Bit watches or facsimile, etc.) except when approved in writing by the Superintendent or designee.
19. Beverage containers made of glass, cans or cardboard.No beverages allowed.
20. Purses, knapsacks, books bags, gym bags, paper/plastic bags, etc. (Briefcases, carry bags and computer bags are permitted for attorneys, legal representatives, government officials and the media-but subject to search)
21. Metal clips. "alligator" clips and clip binders (except when so authorized);
22. Books (except for approved religious, legal or special visits).
23. Pets or animals (except for handicapped purposes, service dogs, security related canines).
24. Tools and keys of any type (except when so authorized).
25. Business cards or any other unauthorized card, pamphlet, etc. shall not be distributed inside a Visitor Room or Security Reception Area.
26. Any other item, as determined by the Sheriff's Office.

**INMATE CLOTHING EXCHANGES:** One-for –one clothing exchanges shall be conducted according to facility schedules. Exchanges for inmate jackets pants, shirts and shoes only permitted for court or release. An inmate may initiate a clothing exchange by submitting a Property Release Form to the Property Room according to facility schedules. Visitors may call the Property Room at 509.995.6400 (x 2317) if there are questions about this process.

**SMUGGLING PROHIBITED:** Massachusetts Law (M.G.L. c. 268 §28) prohibits any person from delivering any article whatsoever to an inmate without the permission of the Sheriff or the Superintendent, or to procure an article to be delivered, to possess it with intent to deliver it, or to deposit or conceal it with intent that an inmate shall obtain it. There are no exceptions to this law and the BCSO shall fully investigate any and all claims of such actions.

**PROHIBITED CLOTHING**

The following clothing shall NOT be permitted inside an inmate visiting room.

- 1. Outerwear (jackets, coats, raincoats, etc.).
- 2. Exercise, gym or dance clothes (tops or bottoms), or clothes made from same material. Running shorts, leotards, sweat shirts, sweat pants, hooded sweatshirts (“hoodies”) or other hooded tops, bathing suits/swimwear (tops or bottoms) or muscle shirts. Shorts are permitted no more than three (3”) inches above the knee as long as they are not exercise shorts or inappropriate for a correctional setting.
- 3. Fatigues/camouflage or law enforcement-style clothing of any kind (except when worn in an official capacity).
- 4. Low cut, visibly sheer clothing or revealing clothing (bare midriff, tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, tops that expose back beyond upper shoulders, spaghetti straps, tight or revealing shirts), mini skirts, skirts more than three (3”) inches above the knee, sundresses, wrap around tops, halter tops, fish net stockings, fishnet leggings or any other inappropriate clothing that exposes an undue amount of flesh.) Sleeveless tops are permitted, if appropriate for a correctional setting.
- 5. Any clothing similar to inmate uniforms, uniformed staff, or hospital scrubs, including white T-shirts.
- 6. Hats, baseball caps, hair wraps, hair coverings, dew-rags (religious hair covering are permitted, but shall be subject to search. Wigs and toupees are permitted, but subject to search.)
- 7. Clothing with patches, rips, torn clothing, torn linings.
- 8. Double layer clothing.
- 9. Pajamas and pajama style clothes (except for infants).
- 10. Excessively tight or baggy pants, shirts, skirts or shorts of any style or fabric.
- 11. Wearing no undergarments.
- 12. Spandex tops are not permitted. (Spandex leggings are permitted, but only when covered with an approved skirt that is no more than three (3’) inches above the knee.
- 13. Regularly laced shoes, boots, loafers, sneakers, sandals or open toed- shoes are permitted. Only shoes with flat heels or heels less than three (3”) inches are allowed.
- 14. Visible body ornamentation or brands are not permitted.
- 15. Barrettes or any other metal hair holding device. (Elastic bands and scrunchies are permitted)
- 16. Visible clothing or tattoos that depicts, describes or otherwise refers to sexual conduct, act, organs or preferences. Visible clothing or tattoos that depict, describes or otherwise refers to intolerance of, or discrimination against any race, religion, gender, sexual preference or national origin. Visible clothing or tattoo (s) commonly associated with groups that advocate intolerance, discrimination, gang affiliation or violence. Visible clothing or tattoos with logos or characterizations that reference alcohol or illegal substances.
- 17. Legal visitors, media representatives and private investigators should wear either business or business casual attire when meeting with inmates. At a minimum, they should conform to the standard Visitor Dress Code unless approved by the Superintendent or designee.
- 18. Any other clothing that poses a security hazard or deemed inappropriate by the Sheriff’s Office.

**REFUSAL TO LEAVE:** Visitors shall vacate the premises when so ordered to do so. Those who refuse to leave when so ordered will be considered trespassers. Trespassing is a felony and trespassers can be criminally prosecuted according to MGL C. 266 § 123., MGL C 127 §36

**BRISTOL COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

**DARTMOUTH CORRECTIONAL  
COMPLEX**

400 Faunce Corner Road

North Dartmouth , MA 02747

**ASH STREET JAIL**

226 Ash Street

New Bedford , MA 02740

**Main Switchboard**

(508) 995-6400

Additional information regarding inmate visits can be found on the Sheriff’s Office website, which is located at [bcso-ma.us](http://bcso-ma.us)

The Sheriff’s Office has a Zero Tolerance Policy towards inmate sexual abuse or sexual harassment, Visitors are required to report such acts confidentially to the BCSO Special Investigations Unit at **508-995-6400**. Allegations of sexual abuse or harassment shall be discussed with the victim named in the report. False allegations of inmate sexual abuse or harassment may be criminally prosecuted by the Sheriff’s Office.

Revised version of booklet: 07-14-23

**BRISTOL COUNTY SHERIFF’S  
OFFICE**

**VISITOR INFORMATION  
ENGLISH HANDBOOK**



**Paul Heroux  
Sheriff**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*“ The Bristol County Sheriff’s Office is a public safety organization committed to care, custody, control, and rehabilitation of inmates.”*

*“The Bristol County Sheriff’s Office strives to promote a work environment where employees feel valued and have a sense of purpose in their daily work, and will assist other public organizations when needed.”*