

Transition Information for Prison Sentences (TIPS)

How do I plan?

- ❖ Take care of bills, car, house, storage, important paperwork, children, etc.
- ❖ The BOP will *try* to keep you within 500 miles of home, but things such as security level, medical and programming needs, space, and location of codefendants can impact this.
- ❖ Your voluntary surrender information will be relayed to you by your Pretrial Officer or Presentence Writer. You will usually receive designation information within 2 to 3 weeks of your sentencing.

Self-Surrendering

- ❖ Self-surrendering to the institution is highly recommended. Surrendering to the U.S. Marshals in the Eastern District of Wisconsin is a less convenient option as it requires you to be transported from city jail to city jail until you arrive at your institution.
- ❖ We recommend you arrive by **noon** on the day of your surrender to allow time for you to be processed and go through orientation.
- ❖ Do **not** arrive intoxicated or under the influence of any substances.
- ❖ You can arrive with cash or check that will be deposited into your inmate account.
- ❖ You may bring prescription glasses and a plain wedding band valued under \$100.
- ❖ Do **not** bring your Presentence Report; it contains a lot of sensitive information and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) already has a copy.
- ❖ You may bring copies of legal materials, such as your State ID and Social Security card. These will be kept in your file.
- ❖ You can also bring medication bottles (as long as they are not narcotics or expired) and/or copies of your scripts from your doctor. Medical will review everything with you upon arrival.



www.bop.gov

Helpful Resources

- ❖ Go to www.bop.gov and search your institution. There you will find:
 - Visiting information
 - How to send inmate mail and money
 - Resources for sentenced inmates
- ❖ The resources for sentenced inmates include downloadable **Admissions and Orientation (A&O) Handbooks** and **Commissary Lists**.
- ❖ Another option is to visit www.bop.gov/inmates and select a topic: designations, education, entering prison, legal matters, medical care, mental health, reentry programs, religious programs, sentence computations, sexual abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment, voluntary surrenders, work programs, and UNICOR.



While Serving Your Sentence

- ❖ **Telephone Calls:** Make sure your loved ones know that you likely will not be able to make a call for the first few days. Do not share your issued pin number with anyone! Calls are 15 minutes in length and taped and subject to monitoring. You can use up to 300 minutes per month (which you pay for). *Helpful hint:* it may be cheaper for your loved ones to purchase a second phone line using the area code of the facility where you are located. That way, your calls to them will be cheaper as they will not be considered long distance.
- ❖ **Mail/Email:** Email is usually sold in increments of 40, 100, 200, 300, and 600 minutes. All mail and emails are monitored. You can subscribe to magazines and newspapers and have loved ones send you books, but they all must come directly from the source (e.g. Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc.).
- ❖ **Visitation:** Due to COVID-19, the BOP's visiting policy continues to change. Make sure to visit www.bop.gov.
- ❖ **Residential Drug and Alcohol Program (RDAP):** This program runs approximately 9-12 months and requires housing in a separate unit until the programming is completed. Your sentence must be at least 36 months long to be eligible. It is intensive half day programming five days per week. Those that qualify may have their sentence reduced for completing the program. Facilities have other Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) programming as well, including individual and group treatment and counseling.
- ❖ **Education:** It is important to have your education level in your Presentence Report verified. If you do not have a high school diploma, GED, HSED, or higher, you will be enrolled in GED programming. All institutions offer literacy classes, English as a Second Language, parenting classes, wellness education, adult continuing education, library services, and instruction in leisure-time activities. Some traditional college courses are available, depending on the institution. Take advantage of programming!
- ❖ **Employment:** You are required to work if medically able. Some work assignments include food service, warehouse, plumber, painter, or groundskeeper. You will earn between \$0.12 and \$0.40 per hour. If you do not have your high school diploma or GED/HSED, your pay will be lower. Be sure to advocate for a work assignment that interests you and could benefit you upon release!
- ❖ **UNICOR:** UNICOR (prison industry) jobs are available at some facilities but limited due to budget issues. These jobs assist you in gaining marketable skills such as metals, electronics, clothing and textiles, office furniture, recycling activities, and more. The pay range is also higher at \$0.23 to \$1.15 an hour.
- ❖ **Release Planning:** If you spend your time right, you will acquire valuable skills and work experience while serving your sentence. Take advantage of vocational training and other education courses offered. Release preparation should begin the day you self-surrender. As you approach your release date, you will complete a Release Preparation Program which includes classes in resume writing, job searching, and job retention.
- ❖ **Residential Reentry Center:** If appropriate, you will be placed at an RRC (halfway house) prior to your release to help you adjust to living in the community and finding employment. You are still serving your BOP sentence at this time, so any violations at the RRC could result in loss of good time or a return to your BOP facility.

Other Helpful Resources

- ❖ **Milwaukee Prison Project Child Support Program** (for Milwaukee County only): Once you have surrendered to your designated facility, you can write a letter requesting a hearing to determine if child support can be suspended during your term of incarceration. *901 N. 9th St. Room 101, Milwaukee, WI 53233.*
- ❖ **Social Security Benefits:** If you receive social security, visit www.ssa.gov or visit your local social security office to cancel your benefits during your period of incarceration. If benefits are not stopped, you will be responsible for paying them back upon release.
- ❖ **Kinship Care Program:** Visit [Kinship Navigator | Wisconsin Department of Children and Families](#) for more information on the kinship care program. If you are the primary caretaker for your children, a family member may qualify to provide care for them and receive a monthly payment of \$220 per child while you serve your sentence. The caretaker would need to be foster care certified.

Start planning for your release today!