



Multicultural
NSW



NUMBER EIGHT
PRISON PROJECT

Arrest



If a person is arrested and the police refuse to grant the person bail, depending on the time of day, they can be held overnight before they must appear in court. To find out what is happening, call the police station where you think they were taken and ask to talk to the Custody Manager.

If the person is refused bail by the court, they may remain in the court cell for a longer period (sometimes several days) before being transferred to a remand centre. The court will have a welfare worker who may be able to offer some assistance to the person in prison.

You may be able to visit someone or receive a phone call from them when they are in the court cell. (See how to find out where your family member is being held.)

If you're concerned about how long it's taking for your family member, partner or friend to go before the court, ring LawAccess or a Community Legal Centre for information and advice.

LawAccess is contactable toll-free on 1300 888 529 or to find your nearest **Community Legal Centre** phone (02) 9212 7333.

Bail

After the person has been arrested and charged, they may be released on bail.

If granted bail:



the person may have to sign a document saying that they will agree to forfeit some money if they do not attend court;




someone may have to deposit security (usually money), known as 'bail money', to assure the court the person will attend court when required. The person who deposits the money is called a 'surety';



this bail money is returned when the case finishes provided the person appears at court on the designated date and time;



if they don't turn up at court the bail money is forfeited.



As a family member of the accused, you may feel under pressure to put up bail money. However, if you cannot afford to pay this money – and risk losing it – then you should think carefully before agreeing to pay bail money.

Bail may be refused if the court or police find there is an unacceptable risk that the person will:

- fail to appear at court hearings for the charges;
- commit a serious offence while on bail;
- endanger the safety of victims, individuals or the community;
- interfere with witnesses or evidence.

In cases where the person has been charged with certain serious offences, the person must be bail refused unless they show cause as to why their detention is not justified.

When going to court, be prepared for long waits as there may be a number of matters listed on the day. The solicitor may be able to indicate how long the hearing might take.

Families coming to court from country areas should bring an overnight bag in case the trial is carried over to the following day. Families may also have to make arrangements for accommodation.

Sentencing



If the person is found guilty, sentencing may take place immediately, but this often happens at a later date to allow the person solicitor to prepare for it.

If the person is given a custodial sentence and are on bail, they will be taken directly into prison.

You will not be able to say goodbye to them before they are taken away. Sentencing can be highly stressful. If there is someone in the family attending court who suffers from a medical or psychiatric condition, they should be accompanied by someone who knows about their condition and what to do in an emergency.

How to locate your friend or family member in prison

If you want the location of an inmate, Inmate Locations can be contacted from 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday on (02) 8346 1000.

Keeping in Contact

Families benefit from maintaining ties with a family member in prison, even if its hard to find time for visiting or staying in contact. Fares, petrol and other costs can make visiting expensive, and dealing with prison security can be frustrating.

However, inmates who stay in close contact with their families are less likely to reoffend when they're released. They do better on parole, have better mental health and have better relationships with their families when they return home, so its worth the effort to stay in touch.



Who can visit?



Family and friends are encouraged to visit. Up to four adults can visit an inmate at any one time. Check with the prison if you want to bring more than four children.

Inmates can decide they don't want to attend a visit. If an inmate has many people who are likely to visit, they should check with each other beforehand to avoid too many people attending at the same time. If you let the inmate know in advance that you're visiting, this will help them be prepared for the visit. You can do this by writing to them, or by telling them when they phone you.

But remember that once you've told them you're visiting, they'll be counting on you coming. If you have to change your plans on the day, you won't be able to contact the inmate to let them know.

Booking a visit

Visiting times

For visiting times and conditions, booking details and public transport information, please consult [list of Correctional Centres](#) and select the centre that you would like to visit.



JUST Connect online bookings

JUST Connect is an online scheduling system used to make video and in-person appointments with inmates.

For more information scan the QR code below or call the centre for booking assistance.



Phone calls

You won't be able to phone your family member in prison.

Each inmate receives a phone card with six phone numbers that can be programmed for family or friends. They can also allocate three numbers for services they may wish to phone. They must have money in their account to make phone calls. Phone calls generally last six minutes.





Looking after yourself

It may be hard to focus on your own needs when you're so worried about your family member's situation. However, you need to look after your health and wellbeing as well.

It's easy to overlook signs of stress. Check the following list to identify ways that stress may be affecting you.

Everyone feels stress differently, so you will need to develop your own approach to managing it. The self-care suggestions that follow are a guide.

If you can't find strategies that work for you, or you find you're relying on alcohol or other drugs or other unhealthy behaviours to cope, you may find it helpful to talk with your doctor, or look for assistance from a psychologist, social worker or counsellor.

Signs of stress are:

- difficulty sleeping;
- undereating or overeating;
- difficulty communicating thoughts;
- easily irritated;
- muscle tension, headaches, stomach problems;
- disorientation, confusion
- difficulty concentrating;
- reluctance to leave home;
- feeling depressed, sad or hopeless;





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Contact us

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

number8prisonproject.org.au

CONTACT US

For family support

families@number8prisonproject.org.au

MANA (Transition to Home)

mana@number8prisonproject.org.au

Chaplaincy (and Villawood Immigration Centre Support)

chaplaincy@number8prisonproject.org.au

General Enquiries

enquiries@number8prisonproject.org.au

OUR OFFICE (by appointment only)

Level 1, 13 Cleeve Street, Mount Druitt NSW 2770