



AGENDA for the evening

- **Immigration Detention System**
- ***Friends of Orange County Detainees* history**
- **STORIES** from several visitor volunteers
- **NUTS & BOLTS** of visiting
- **How to sign up / Ongoing process**
- **Q&A**
- **Sign ups**

Visiting Immigrants In Detention

Everything you need to know

Getting Acquainted with Friends of Orange County Detainees

- *What does this program consist of?*

Volunteers (maybe a pair of visitors) visit detainees to provide companionship and to minimize isolation.

- *What are the requirements of the visitation program?*

Visitor must be:

- Committed and consistent in their visits, and
- Bring a government issued photo id

- *What will be the volunteer's time commitment?*

- At a minimum, one half hour visit at least once a month for three months. (Usually 90 minutes out of your day including travel. One time visits are also allowed.

Getting Acquainted with with Friends of Orange County Detainees (cont'd)

- *What is expected of the volunteer?*

Visitors are expected to:

- BE THERE, If you say you are going to be there.
- Be a good listener who is sensitive to detainee's needs
- Just visit, which is enough. You don't have to promise anything more.
- Communicate any issues or concerns to Program Coordinator, e.g. not being able to make a scheduled visit, setting boundaries with detainees or other issues to be passed on to attorneys, etc.



Role of the Volunteer Visitor

Your visits will provide:

- A boost to morale,
- Friendship and a smiling face,
- A time to put worries aside & just chat,
- The opportunity for detainees to sharpen English skills,
- A chance for asylum seekers to learn more about the U.S., and
- A chance for you to learn more about the person you visit.



Role of the Volunteer (cont'd)

As a volunteer, you are:

- NOT a lawyer to help someone figure out how to get out of detention
- NOT a mental health professional
- NOT a social worker
- NOT a missionary or pastor
- NOT a source of financial support

What to Expect on Your First Visit

(James A. Musick Facility)

1. Go through security at the parking lot. Leave everything but driver's license in the car.
2. Sign in. They will give you a written pass to see the detainee.
3. Hop the bus
4. When you arrive, give the pass to the guard and they will assign you seats at a particular table. Just wait there for the detainee to arrive.
5. You have 30 mins. for the visit. The guards are the time keepers.
6. The detainee would have been asked if he/she wants visitors. So he/she will be expecting someone, but doesn't know who.
7. You might be anxious about the first meeting ... but so will the detainee. Just get to know each other a little.

What to Expect on Your First Visit

(Santa Ana Jail)

- **On arrival:** Check in at the front desk. Present your government-issued id. The first time you visit a person, you will fill out an inmate visitation form.
- **In the waiting room:** Visits are first-come, first served. You will be assigned to the next spot open on the hour (usually the next hour, e.g. 3:00 pm). You will be given a card which states the floor and area you will visit.
- **The visit:** The detainee's name will be called when it is time for you to enter. Walk to the end of the hall, and take the elevator to the 1st, 3rd or 4th floor, depending on what your card says. If not already there, the detainee will be on the other side. Lift the phone when he/she arrives, and wait while they type in their passcode. At the end of the hour, you will be notified that your time is up. Take the elevator back to the 2nd floor and exit.

Steps for a Good Visit

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Find out what name the person prefers.
3. Let the person guide conversation, e.g. What would you like to talk about? Tell me about yourself.
4. Don't pry.
5. Convey what you understand.
6. Respect their faith, if topic arises.
7. Know your boundaries.
8. End visit by telling when you will be back, if at all.

Steps for a Good Visit (cont'd)

9. Do not make any promises, unless you are certain you can keep them.
10. Email that you visited to Jan jmeslin@cox.net. If there is a problem or concern, complete Visitation Log (See handout appendix) and turn in to Jan Meslin.
11. You can check whether your detainee is still in custody by going to ICE's detainee locator page (<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>) and then entering his/her name and country of origin OR alien number if you know that.



Issues to Jan (jmeslin@cox.net)

- Legal matters.
- Mental and physical health concerns.
- Urgent detained immigrant needs, e.g., contact w/ family, immediate or impending release.
- Allegations of mistreatment or abuse.
- Unprofessional conduct of staff towards the volunteer.
- Request for material assistance
- Other questions



Security Rules and Regulations

- Do comply with all orders from staff.
- Don't carry anything unauthorized in or out of the facility.
- Do bring you Photo ID and wear your Visitor Id Badge, if required, at all times.
- Don't bring a camera or recording device.
- Don't discuss details of person's case w/anyone.
- Don't give the person anything or pass anything from one person to another.



Security Rules and Regulations (cont'd):

- Don't take anything from a person in detention.
- You do not need to make telephone calls for persons in detention; you may do so if you feel comfortable.
- Do be prepared to handle flirting or romantic advances
- Do wear conservative clothing, which is strictly enforced

Security Rules and Regulations (cont'd):

- Don't give out your address or telephone number; for most communication, use only your first name:
 - Friends of O.C. Detainees
P.O. Box 1536
Lake Forest CA 92609
949 682-5053
friendsofocdetainees@gmail.com
 - The Center OC (for detainees in the GBT pod at Santa Ana Jail)
1605 North Spurgeon Street Santa Ana, CA 92701
- When sending letters to detainees, use the following format
Detainee's Name and Booking Number
Name of the Facility
Address of the Facility (check jail websites)



Confidentiality

- Do not discuss anything about the detainee with others, unless an issue arises that the Visitation Program Coordinator or attorneys need to address.
- If you want to tell others about your visiting experience, ask the detainee.
- Do not contact the detainees embassy or consulate.
- Do not contact expatriates from detainee's home country.



Regarding Gifts

- Visiting is a gift in itself; nothing else is required of you.
- If you wish to do more, we recommend at least three visits before you offer to put money into the detainee's account or purchase a book for him/her.
- We are now collecting used paperback books (especially Spanish) to donate to SA and Musick libraries.
- You may need to tell detainees who make a request for money or gifts that this is a visitation program only.