

Maryland Correctional Facilities COVID-19 Resources

Visitation services at correctional facilities provide stability, support and connection to loved ones, family, and advocacy services. Inmates rely on visitation and advocacy services for their well-being and emotional health, particularly incarcerated survivors of sexual assault. There were existing challenges to accessing these services in jails and prisons, but health risks involving COVID-19 have made these circumstances more difficult. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to supporting incarcerated survivors and ensuring their access to rape crisis services. Here are state-wide updates on visitation policies during COVID-19:

- **The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**
 - Personal visits have been suspended since March 12th
 - DPSCS has made [video visitations](#) available in place of in-person visits
 - **DPSCS COVID-19 Family Hotline number** 410-769-6419 provides updated information regarding precautions, prevention, and care available in DPSCS correctional facilities
 - **Daily updates of COVID-19 cases per DPSCS facility:**
<https://news.maryland.gov/dpscs/covid-19>
- **Department of Juvenile Services**
 - All family in-person visits have been suspended
 - Please refer to [this document](#) for attorney visitation guidelines
 - **DJS COVID-19 Hotline number** 1-877-357-4161 provides current information related confirmed cases among staff and youth
 - **Daily updates of COVID-19 case per DJS facility:**
<https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>

Since each facility's situation is different, for further detail regarding available methods of telecommunication, the status of access to mail and phones, or other rules and guidelines for COVID-19, [contact the facility in your jurisdiction](#).

Adapting Advocacy Services for Incarcerated Survivors and COVID-19

MCASA and SALI are still open and available to provide technical assistance and legal services on how to navigate trauma-informed advocacy services virtually during the suspension of visitation and reduced access to confidential phone and mail services.

If there are any questions and concerns about continuing confidential services to survivors, reach out to the PREA Compliance Manager at the facility in your jurisdiction. If there is any difficulty with making these connections, further questions, or if you would like to share experiences related to adapting services to incarcerated survivors during COVID-19, please reach out to smarkos@mcasa.org.

Resources for adapting advocacy services to support incarcerated survivors during COVID-19:

- [Just Detention International- Supporting Incarcerated Survivors During COVID-19](#)
- [Just Detention International- We Are Still Here: Serving Incarcerated Survivors During COVID-19 \(Webinar\)](#)
- [Just Detention International- We are Still Here, Part 2: Adjusting Your Services to the New Reality Behind Bars \(Webinar\)](#)