

Washington County Jail Volunteer Application

Please print

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST: _____

DATE: _____ SEX: M _____ F _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____

ZIP: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: _____

PASTOR: _____

CHURCH ADDRESS: _____

CHURCH PHONE: _____

CHURCH EMAIL: _____

I UNDERSTAND THE GUIDELINES FOR MINISTERING IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY JAIL AND I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR FOLLOWING THEM.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Applicants' last criminal offense must be two years old, off parole for at least one full year and a faithful member of a church with pastoral approval.

Ministry Rules for Volunteers

1. Learn the rules and obey the rules.
2. Do not smuggle any article (including religious) in or out the facility.
3. All items brought into the facility need to be approved by the Chaplain. NO staples allowed, this includes tracks, paperwork or booklets.
4. Do not get involved with an inmate's personal or legal matters.
5. If you find an inmate is concerned about the welfare of his or her family, refer the individual to speak with the Chaplain.
6. Do not mail books or other items to inmates.
7. Do not give inmates financial assistance at the facility where you minister.
8. Volunteers will not be under the influence of un-prescribed drugs or alcohol while performing volunteer duties in the ministry. Volunteers will not bring drugs, weapons or alcohol beverages into an institution. This includes such items as pocketknives, nail files, cell phones or other similar items.
9. In the event of a disagreement or problem between a volunteer and inmate, the volunteer should notify the Chaplain. If the event is serious, notify a corrections officer immediately.
10. Do not share your personal business with offenders or discuss personal information.
11. Do not play favorites; be fair and consistent in your relationships and interactions with inmates. Do not take sides.

12. **Keep commitments.** In the event that a meeting or session has to be canceled, notify the chaplain in advance. Expectations are developed by inmates and maintained by you.

13. **Volunteers should dress appropriately when conducting ministry.** Tight clothing or revealing apparel is not appropriate. Use common sense.

14. **Some types of physical contact (hugging etc.) are often misunderstood.** Extreme caution should be taken in this area.

15. **Volunteers may not be on any inmates visiting list at a facility where they volunteer.** Notify the chaplain if this is an issue for direction ie: Relative

16. **Male volunteers may only minister to male inmates. Female volunteers may only minister to female inmates.**

17. **Do not agree to make business or personal transactions on the street for inmates.**

18. **Maintain any confidential information about an inmate to yourself.** Do not take personal information regarding an offender outside the facility under any circumstances.

19. **As a volunteer you may not be a character witness for an inmate or write the parole board in behalf of the individual.**

20. **Do not have any one accompany you to the facility who is not authorized to enter.** Though they will not be allowed entrance, there could be a case of an unauthorized entry.

21. **Applicants' last criminal offense must be five years old, off parole for at least one full year.**

22. **Volunteer workers must be able to minister to the needs of inmates regardless of race, color, creed or sexual persuasion.** The subject of homosexuality is to be dealt with the individual by the Senior Chaplain only, and only at the request of the individual minor. Our policy is to minister equally to all who seek our services.

The Do's and Don'ts of Jail Ministry

DO'S

1. Be yourself
2. Be a good listener
3. Follow all established rules and guidelines
4. Seek help when needed.
5. Always be courteous and cooperative.
6. Share personal testimonies and reports of victory and answered prayer.
7. Know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.
8. Be willing to learn.

DON'TS

NO CELL PHONES AT ANY TIME!! "ORDERED BY THE SHERIFF"!!!!

1. Don't "Preach" at an inmate. Try to help an inmate establish a healthy respect for him or herself.
2. Don't ask an inmate about his or her crime.
3. Don't make promises you can't keep.
4. Don't visit the inmate's family or friends without his or her permission and consent.
5. Don't take sides against authorities.
6. Don't argue with inmates.
7. Don't be manipulated or "Conned" by inmates.
8. Don't run errands, deliver messages, or make phone calls for inmates.
9. Don't stress denomination or doctrine. Stress Jesus Christ and His Lordship.
10. Other Don'ts – I understand the following:
 - Don't start late
 - Don't discuss inmate's guilt or innocence
 - Don't discuss other inmate circumstances
 - Don't give or accept gifts or favors
 - Don't carry contraband or messages
 - Don't discuss conditions of confinement
 - Don't use profane language
 - Don't give out your telephone number or address

Don't wear provocative clothing

Don't give an inmate anything except Bibles and Tracks

I understand all of the rules and agree to abide by them. Further, I also understand that I must treat all inmates equally and fairly without regard to race, sex, national origin, religious preference, or physical disability. In view of this, I further agree to be sensitive of other programs viewpoints, which may not be of my own persuasion. I will likewise keep my program efforts from conflicting with those rights.

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SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

APPROVED BY CHAPLAIN: _____

DATE: _____