



SAFETY, RESPECT
AND DIGNITY
FOR ALL

LA SÉCURITÉ,
LA DIGNITÉ
ET LE RESPECT
POUR TOUS

Drugs in Correctional Facilities: A Dangerous Situation *A Visitor's Guide*

www.csc-scc.gc.ca

At the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), we are committed to keeping our facilities, our staff and our communities safe.

Visitors play an important role in preventing the flow of drugs into our correctional facilities.

What can I expect when I enter?

When entering a correctional facility, you will be asked to sign in and put your belongings in a locker. Anything you bring with you will be X-rayed and may be scanned for drug residue. You will then be directed to walk through the metal detector. Each institution also has access to a drug detector dog; therefore you may see one walking around the entrance.

We recognize that these efforts to prevent smuggling are inconvenient and may seem as though we are suspicious of you. That is not our intent. These efforts are necessary to protect the health and safety of inmates and staff.

Almost 80% of offenders arrive at an institution with a substance abuse problem. Also, more than half were intoxicated when they committed the crime for which they are serving time.

Inmates' actions affect the community

Drug abuse interferes with rehabilitation and contributes to criminal behaviour. While incarcerated, inmates are provided with programs designed to reduce the risk of re-offending. Inmates who continue to use drugs or participate in drug-related activities don't always fully participate in their programs. This can affect their behaviour when they get out.

In addition, drug abuse by inmates can affect everyone's health. Practices such as sharing needles and using glass tubes to inhale drugs can increase the risk of being exposed to and spreading infectious diseases such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. Once released, inmates could spread these serious diseases to their loved ones and to the public.

Drugs endanger inmates

Drugs become very valuable inside facilities – sometimes increasing to more than five times their street value. Drugs become a source of power, criminal influence and are used as currency. Many incidents of violence can be attributed to drug trade activities. Inmates have been assaulted by other inmates because of drugs and personal belongings that can be traded for drugs. These activities could result in inmates being placed in segregation for their own protection or for disciplinary reasons.

What is being done?

Our drug strategy aims to reduce:

Supply of drugs: We use state-of-the-art equipment and techniques including metal detectors, ion scanners and detector dogs to identify individuals who attempt to smuggle in drugs. Anyone caught trying to smuggle in drugs could be charged by local police and, if convicted, face a jail term or a heavy fine. Smuggling can result in a suspension or restriction of visiting status and may delay the release of the inmate involved.

Demand for drugs: We offer a range of effective substance abuse programs to help inmates deal with their addictions. We have specialized units for inmates dedicated to a drug-free lifestyle and methadone maintenance treatment for inmates addicted to heroin.

We also assist offenders to lead drug-free lifestyles when they return to the community on conditional release.

You can encourage the person you visit to take programs that help them eliminate their use of drugs and protect their health. For information on the programs available in your area, please contact the institution or parole office supervising the person you visit. For more information, visit our Website at: www.csc-scc.gc.ca.

Visitors play an important role in preventing the flow of drugs into our correctional facilities.

Visitors can help the fight against drugs

Correctional facilities are like small communities. People are constantly entering, leaving and moving within an institution. On any given day, approximately 5,300 people (not including staff) enter and leave CSC facilities.

Drugs coming into institutions have a devastating effect on the correctional environment. They interfere with rehabilitation and contribute to criminal behaviour.

Are you doing your part?

- ▶ by addressing drug issues with CSC staff, so institutions are safer places for you and the people you visit
- ▶ by encouraging the person you visit not to get involved in drugs, or to get treatment for an addiction
- ▶ by telling CSC staff if you are being threatened or coerced into bringing drugs in to a friend or family member

Talk to our CSC staff...

- ▶ in person at the institution you visit
- ▶ by calling us:

1-866-780-DRUG (1-866-780-3784)

www.csc-scc.gc.ca