

# NEED TO KNOW INFORMATION

- Students must be escorted by school personnel or parents/guardians at a rate of one adult for every 10 students under 18.

- All inmate activity will be monitored. Teenagers will not be allowed inside inmates' cells or to speak with inmates. Inmates are not allowed direct contact with tour participants.

- Everyone entering the prison must adhere to the visitors' dress code, which includes: no shorts, skirts or dresses shorter than the top of the kneecap or tight fitting; no tube-tops, tank-tops, crop-tops, halter-tops, spaghetti-top blouses; sleeveless/transparent or mesh tops; no leggings/body suits/spandex clothing; no blue chambray, periwinkle, camouflage or orange shirts; no low-cut or cut-out designs on clothing; no clothing with profanity, offensive wording or pictures; and no headgear (excluding religious). All visitors must wear appropriate underclothing for his/her gender. A complete list can be found at <http://doc.ok.gov/websites/doc/images/documents/policy/030118a.pdf>.

- Teenagers must be able to walk through a metal detector or be scanned with a hand-held device. Adult visitors will be subject to a pat down search.

- Tour guests are not allowed to bring any items with them, including but not limited to purses, backpacks, fanny packs, cellphones, fitbits, or smartwatches.

## OUR MISSION

*To Protect the Public*

*To Protect the Employee*

*To Protect the Offender*



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OKLAHOMA

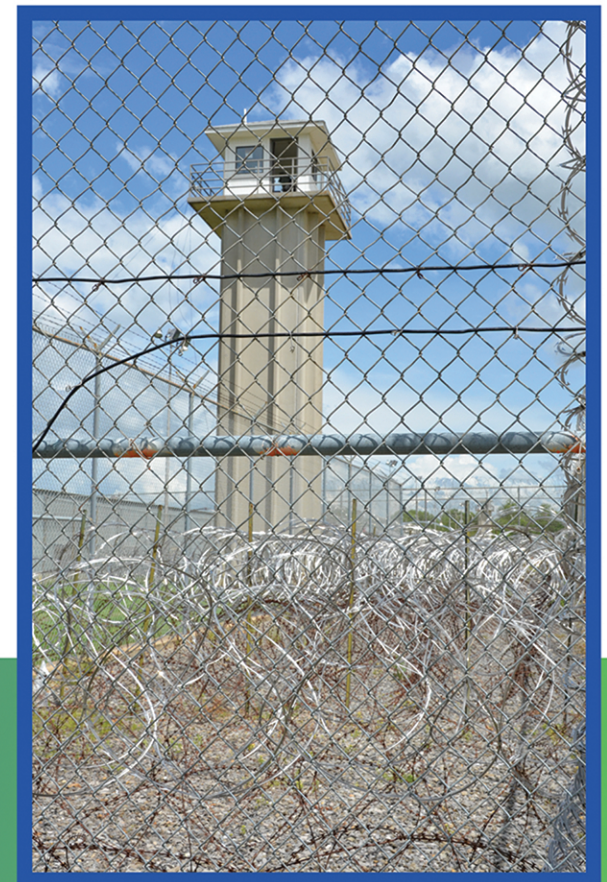


OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT  
OF CORRECTIONS

Presents

## STRAIGHT TALK-

a program educating  
youth on the perils of  
criminal activity



In 2019, the state legislature granted the governor appointing authority for the agency's director, with confirmation by the Senate. The same law changed the board's size from seven to nine. The governor now appoints five members, the Senate two members, and the House of Representatives two members.

### VISION

The Department of Corrections will create a culture that-

- Empowers Individuals
- Encourages Teamwork
- Employs Best Practices
- Embraces Diversity



OKLAHOMA



# GENERAL INFORMATION



Crime destroys lives of both the guilty and the innocent as it erodes communities.



As a proactive activity to steer teenagers from criminal behavior, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections now offers prison tours. Specifically geared for teens, the Straight Talk program allows school groups a window into how a corrections system works. These tours will highlight crime's devastating impact while providing future generations a behind-the-scenes understanding of incarceration.



# MORE DETAILS

- The Straight Talk program consists of staff-guided tours and possible testimonials by pre-selected and screened inmates to paint a powerful picture of the consequences of criminal behavior.
- The program targets school-age children no younger than freshmen in high school. Visits include tours of facility grounds, prison cells, and other points of interest, all accompanied by security personnel to ensure safety.



- Tour days, times and frequency vary from prison to prison. Tour sizes will be limited.
- For more information about the program or to schedule a tour, contact the DOC Community Outreach Unit by calling 405-425-2607 or emailing [straighttalk@doc.ok.gov](mailto:straighttalk@doc.ok.gov).

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Visits are available to school groups.

Teenagers must have permission slips signed by their parent or legal guardian. All tours involving students must be school-sanctioned.

## ABOUT ODOC

When Oklahoma became a state in 1907, it had nowhere to house prisoners. Its first Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, Kate Barnard, toured the prison in Kansas where Oklahoma inmates were incarcerated. She found Oklahoma's prisoners mistreated and contracted out to private citizens for 50 cents a day as laborers. On top of that,

Oklahoma was paying Kansas 40 cents a day for housing and food. But prisoners were only fed once a day, costing that state just 11 cents. Disgusted by what she saw, Kate returned to Oklahoma, vowing to build a prison where inmates would be treated humanely. Soon after, Oklahoma moved its inmates from Kansas, set up a camp in McAlester, and began building Oklahoma State Penitentiary. "Big Mac,"

as it's commonly called, opened in 1909. Parts of the century-old facility are still used. The Commissioner of Charities and Corrections ran the prison system until 1967 when the state legislature created the Department of Corrections. It also created an agency director and a seven-member board. The Board of Corrections was appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. [More](#) →