

Evaluation guide 1.1.3

Prisoners can receive visitors

1. Normative framework

- The right is recognised at national level
- The right is enshrined in prison regulations

2. Practical implementation of the right

- Prisoners receive visits from their loved ones in decent conditions (absence of degrading entry procedures for visitors, respect for privacy, clean and suitable facilities)
- Prisoners should be allocated to places of detention close to their home or their places of social rehabilitation. Prisoner detained in locations far from their homes are offered arrangements
- Prisoners are allowed to receive visits from all their loved ones
- Prisoners are allowed to receive frequent visits

3. Restrictions on the exercise of the right

- The right to receive visitors is not restricted abusively (practice not listed in the disciplinary regulations, duration exceeding several days, ...). Suspensions should be analysed on a case-by-case basis
- The right to receive visitors is not restricted by abusive control measures (presence of separation devices, systematic monitoring)
- Disciplinary sanctions or restrictive measures shall not include the prohibition of family contact. The means of family contact may only be restricted for a limited time period and as strictly required for the maintenance of security and order on a case-by-case basis

4. Discrimination

- Prisoners receive visitors without charge
- The right is respected across the country (including in peripheral or highly constrained areas)
- All prisoners benefit from this right. No discrimination is observed, in particular towards:

- women
- prisoners subject to a stricter detention regime
- persons with disabilities
- foreigners
- people from ethnic and/or religious minorities
- LGBTQI+ people
- minors
- untried prisoners
- people with mental health disorders