

PUBLIC RECORDS REGARDING VISITING, PHONES, AND MESSAGES

Why Certain Communication Records Are Not Publicly Shared

- The Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) is committed to supporting successful reentry by encouraging adults in custody to maintain meaningful connections with family and friends. Research shows that regular contact—through visits, phone calls, and messages—can improve behavior and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.
- To support these outcomes, Oregon law allows ODOC to keep certain records confidential, including visitor logs, phone communication records and recordings, tablet and MP3 messages, and information that could identify individuals communicating with an adult in custody.

Why This Information Is Kept Confidential

To support a respectful and welcoming experience

- The Attorney General has recognized that individuals may be less likely to connect if their personal information or communications could become public. Protecting privacy helps ensure people feel comfortable maintaining these important relationships (Crombie, February 17, 2017).

To strengthen rehabilitation efforts

- Consistent communication with supportive individuals plays a key role in rehabilitation. Maintaining confidentiality helps remove barriers to that contact and supports positive outcomes (Crombie, 2017; Contreras, January 6, 2020).

To serve the broader public interest

- Under Oregon's Public Records Law, records may be withheld when confidentiality better serves the public. The Attorney General determined that protecting this information supports rehabilitation and community safety, while public disclosure provides limited benefit (Crombie, 2017; Contreras, 2020).

Summary

Certain visiting and communication records—including phone, tablet, and MP3 messages—are not publicly shared to encourage continued connection between adults in custody and their support networks. Protecting this information supports rehabilitation and contributes to safer communities.