Questions about Extended Family Visits (EFV)?

How do I become eligible to apply for Extended Family Visits (EFVs)?

EFVs are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. It will take time for you to become eligible and apply before you can have EFVs. The basic initial requirements to apply include:

- An application may be submitted after the individual has been at a DOC facility for a minimum of 6 months.
- If you are assigned to maximum or close custody or in restricted housing, you cannot participate in EFVs.

What does my family need to know before applying for EFVs?

The full list of requirements for family members can be found in Directive IV of *DOC Policy 590.100 Extended Family Visiting*. Some of the main requirements are as follows:

- Each applicant must be an immediate family member as follows:
  - Children, stepchildren, grandchildren, great grandchildren, parents, stepparents, grandparents, great grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and a person legally married to or in a state registered domestic partnership with the incarcerated individual.
  - Immediate family also includes the immediate family of an incarcerated individual who was adopted as a child or as an adult but does not include an incarcerated individual adopted by another incarcerated individual.
  - In-laws are not eligible for EFV participation.
  - The definition of immediate family is based on RCW 72.09.015 (14) "Immediate family" means the inmate's children, stepchildren, grandchildren, great grandchildren, parents, stepparents, grandparents, great grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and a person legally married to or in a state registered domestic partnership with an inmate. "Immediate family" includes the immediate family of an inmate who was adopted as a child or an adult but does not include an inmate adopted by another inmate.
- Each applicant must verify their relationship to the incarcerated individual and must provide legal picture identification.
- An applicant **must not** be an incarcerated individual in any correctional facility.
- An applicant who is a former incarcerated individual must have authorization from the Superintendent.
- An applicant cannot have any active no contact or protective order judgments from any court involving the incarcerated individual.
- Applicants must have an established visit history, which includes six in-person and/or video visits in the last twelve months. The visit history must include a minimum of one in-person visit but can otherwise be a combination of in-person and video visits, for instance: a combination of three video visits and three in-person visits.
- Incarcerated individuals cannot have a domestic violence history with an individual of a similar relationship to a previous victim. (e.g. DV history with a former romantic partner would make a current spouse ineligible for EFV privileges).

How long does it take DOC to process EFV requests?

The timelines depend on several things. If everything goes smoothly, DOC can process the request in two to three months. If DOC doesn't receive all documents from families or if you are incarcerated for a serious or violent offense, it will take longer to complete the review process. The entire EFV approval process can take anywhere from **two to six months.**

How do I appeal a denial for EFV?

All denial letters contain information for appeals. One appeal can be submitted (either by the incarcerated individual and/or the visitor in one packet) by providing any helpful documents and a request to appeal. A family member may submit their appeal through the correspondence portal here or the request for appeal can be submitted by the individual **or** family member to:

DOC EFV Appeal – PO Box 41118 – Olympia, WA 98504-1118

How can I get a copy of the EFV policy?

You can find a copy of *DOC Policy 590.100 Extended Family Visiting* in the FYI app on your Securus Tablet or in the law library if your facility has one. Otherwise, you can send a kite to your counselor to request a copy of the policy. There is also an EFV resource guide for family members published on the DOC website.