



ERO | CPD

Virtual
Attorney
Visitation

VAV^{at} Berks Family Residential Center



Overview

U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention standards require that noncitizens in ICE facilities be allowed confidential contact with legal representatives. In an effort to facilitate improved access to legal representatives, ICE has implemented VAV in various detention facilities nationwide. VAV, which facilitates confidential attorney-client conversations through virtual technology (Cisco, WebEx, Skype), does not substitute for in-person meetings with clients, but it does provide a timely and efficient communication alternative.

Procedures for virtual legal visits at Berks:

- As with in-person legal visitation:
 - All visits require at least 24-hour notice. The legal representative will be required to show appropriate identification, such as a bar card from any state or other available documentation demonstrating bar membership, prior to the scheduled meeting.
 - Only legal representatives, legal assistants, and interpreters will be allowed; no family or friends of the clients are permitted.
 - The legal representative may contact outside interpretation services during the call or session.
- To ensure confidentiality of communications between detained non-citizens and legal representatives, the existing visitation officer shall maintain safety and security for all detained non-citizens/residents utilizing VAV.
- Video-visitation may be used for other confidential interviews (by USCIS or forensic medical evaluators) or other special visitation purposes (child welfare), contingent upon availability.



Please be advised that legal representatives and their staff are not permitted to video or audio record during any virtual or in-person visit or any call with non-citizens at the facility. Any violation of these rules may result in suspension or a permanent revocation of VAV user privileges.

For information on VAV available hours and scheduling, please see:

<https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-facilities/berks-family-residential-center>

**For additional questions about VAV or to schedule a video visit at
Berks please contact :**



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