

# Okaloosa County News Release

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## Okaloosa County Corrections Implements Video Visitation

Okaloosa County Corrections Department is converting to a safer, better and more efficient method to visit inmates – Securus Technologies Video Visitation. Instead of a glass partition and a phone, inmates and visitors will see each other on a video camera. Visitors can sign up for an account on any computer that has internet access and a web camera to visit from home or onsite on [www.visitfromhome.net](http://www.visitfromhome.net), or [http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept\\_corrections.html](http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_corrections.html), on the Okaloosa County website Corrections Department page.

Visitors can then visit from their home; however, there is a cost associated with the visit. They can schedule a no-cost onsite (jail) visit from home or at the jail and no charge is applied. **“We do have a special \$5 promotion through the end of July, while everyone learns the system,”** said Chief Correctional Officer Paul Lawson. Inmates visit from video cameras installed where they are housed. All visitors are still required to provide photo identification and a background check is completed prior to any approved visit.

“There are numerous advantages to this new system, and most counties are already using the system,” said Chairman Kelly Windes, Okaloosa County commissioner. Some of the advantages are improved safety, inmates view video screens from where they are housed, with no movement of inmates or personnel needed to perform that task; reduced contraband being brought into the jail; video visitation provides a revenue stream to recoup cost of jailing inmates; expanded visitation offsite (can visit weekends and holidays previously not available), and overall more efficient and safe. **Additionally, there is no cost to the county for equipment or installation of the Securus Technologies Video Visitation.**

A two-hour per week visitation is required in order to meet Florida Jail Standards. “Okaloosa County Corrections has been working to provide public notice of the change onsite for several weeks and response is mixed, with some being very excited and others not as excited about the change,” added Lawson. For more information, please contact Okaloosa County Corrections, 850-689-5690.

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