Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 12, Lexington’s jail visitation policy is changing with the goal of making the jail safer for visitors, inmates and jail officers. The changes affect when, and how often, an inmate can receive visitors.

"On any given day our jail may receive up to 400 requests from people who want to visit inmates, resulting in long wait times for visitors and a significant work load for our employees,” Community Corrections Director Steve Haney said. “This new computer program will help us streamline visits to the jail, provide more predictability for inmates and their families, and create a safer and less crowded visitation area.”

The changes to visitation guidelines include:

- No visits on Mondays or Fridays
- Each inmate will fill out a visitation registry, a list of no more than five people. Only people on the visitation registry will be allowed to visit an inmate. Visitation is restricted to twice per week.
  - Inmates can change their visitor lists every 90 days.
  - Young people, age 15 and younger, do not have to be on a list as long as they are brought to the visit by a parent or guardian on the list.
- Everyone who visits the jail can be searched at any time. This includes "pat-down" searches. Those who do not cooperate with a search will lose their visitation privileges.

“I recognize the importance of a sound visitation program, and feel that these changes will enhance safety and security, while still providing the inmate population with the ability to maintain community and family ties,” Haney said.

A complete list of the changes is available [here](#).