



**WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE**  
**FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

# **A Guide on Requesting a Transfer Within the BOP**

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This Guide was created by the D.C. Prisoners' Project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee  
for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs.

**It is not an official document of the Bureau of Prisons.**

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There are different types of transfers within the BOP. Below are examples of common reasons people transfer between BOP facilities:

- Changes to security level;
- Nearer release transfer;
- For medical and/or mental health treatment;
- Placement in a halfway house;
- Temporary transfer for program participation

The following overview provides a short summary of three common types of transfers. For more information about the BOP's policy on designations, security classification, and transfers you can review BOP Policy 5100.08, CN-1. A copy of this policy should be available in your law library.

### Nearer Release Transfer

You can request a Nearer Release Transfer to move to a facility closer to your legal residence or release destination. If you would like to move to a facility in an area that is not closer to your legal residence or release destination, you must prove that you have strong community or family ties in that area.

To be eligible for this type of transfer, you need to be on a general population for 18 months without receiving a disciplinary violation.

If you have already been transferred to a facility within 500 miles of your release residence, you can make additional requests for nearer release transfers. Approval will depend on bed availability, security designation, programmatic needs, mental and medical health needs, faith-based needs, recommendations of the sentencing court, and BOP security concerns.

### Institution Classification Transfers

Institution Classification Transfers are transfers to a lower or higher security facility based on changes to your security level. For example, if your security level drops, you may be able to request a transfer to a lower security prison.

### Transfers for Training Purposes or Program Participation

You may be transferred in order to participate in programs that are not available at your current facility. Examples of the types of programs that may require a transfer are:

- Residential Drug Treatment Program
- Life Connections Program
- Sex offender programs

After you complete the program, if you have 18 months or more left before your release date, you will usually be transferred back to your original facility. If the program facility is nearer to your release residence than your original facility, then you may request to remain at the program facility.