

MDC Brooklyn

Fact Sheet – November 2025 - Designations

In the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York, the U.S. Marshals Service detains federal prisoners at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York, a Federal Bureau of Prisons facility, pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies. MDC Brooklyn primarily houses USMS prisoners subject to pending criminal charges, or who await sentencing following a conviction or plea.

Individuals Designated to MDC Brooklyn: The Federal Bureau of Prisons also houses, among others, a small population of individuals who BOP has determined will serve their term of imprisonment at MDC Brooklyn; that is, the BOP has “designated” that individual to MDC Brooklyn. The First Step Act requires, to the extent practicable, that the BOP designate an individual to a facility within 500 driving miles of their primary residence. BOP has resumed designating individuals to serve their terms of imprisonment at MDC Brooklyn.

Individuals designated to serve their sentence at MDC Brooklyn are housed separately from the other MDC Brooklyn inmates, on their own dedicated floor in a “dormitory style” housing unit in MDC’s “East” building. The designated population are sometimes referenced as “cadre inmates,” or part of the “work cadre,” and many are authorized to perform work outside the secure confines of the facility. In contrast, most of the individuals housed at MDC Brooklyn are housed in an entirely separate building, the “West” building, in housing units comprised of two-person, locking cells.

Designation process: Several steps must precede the Federal Bureau of Prisons designating a facility for service of a term of imprisonment. Upon imposition of a judgment in a criminal case that includes a term of imprisonment, chambers must send the Judgment in a Criminal Case and Statement of Reasons to the U.S. Probation Office, typically via email. Probation then uploads these documents and the Presentence Report into the CAPTURE program, which routes these materials to the U.S. Marshals Service. USMS reviews these materials and uploads additional documentation into CAPTURE, and then formally requests a designation from the BOP. Only once these steps are completed can the BOP begin the designations and classification process. Through its Designation and Sentence Computation Center, the BOP determines the individual’s security classification, calculates the individual’s sentence, and designates the facility for the individual to serve their sentence.