Working with Children and Families with Parents Involved in the Criminal Justice System

A Toolkit for Social Service and Child Welfare Providers

This web-based toolkit can be found on the following website:

www.childrensjusticealliance.org/resources

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Introduction

The children who are the most likely to fail in school, to become drug addicted as adults, and to experience violence are children whose parents are involved in the criminal justice system. The Children’s Justice Alliance works to improve outcomes for these children and their families. We do that through supporting stable, healthy families, creating systems change and contributing to public policy discussions.

This Toolkit is part of our systems change work to ensure that the needs of children whose parents are involved in the criminal justice system are recognized, considered and addressed by all parts of the systems with which they come in contact.

When a parent is incarcerated, children experience trauma and loss. They often do not know why their parent has left nor do they understand their parents’ actions. They may learn from the actions and attitudes of those around them that incarceration is shameful, leading them to feel stigmatized and isolated. Typical feelings include vulnerability, anger, guilt, depression, and anxiety. Behavioral symptoms they may exhibit include:

- Separation anxiety and fears of abandonment
- Fear, sadness, loneliness, low self-esteem, and emotional withdrawal from friends and family
- Use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Eating and sleeping disorders
- Anxiety, attention disorders and developmental regression
- Physical aggression, withdrawal, acting out, academic and classroom behavior difficulties, and truancy

Awareness of the issues and emotions experienced by children of incarcerated parents can help practitioners and social service agencies better serve their needs. This toolkit will provide information to help practitioners develop resources for dealing appropriately and effectively with these children, their caregivers and their parents.
Children of Incarcerated Parents Project

The Children of Incarcerated Parents Project workgroup first convened in 2000, to better understand the issues of children whose parents are involved in the criminal justice system and to develop recommendations aimed at meeting children’s needs when a parent becomes involved in the criminal justice system. The work group was comprised of representatives from over 20 organizations, including Child, Adult and Family Services, the Oregon Youth Authority, mental and public health, the Oregon Social Learning Center, Early Head Start, Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE), Oregon Relief Nurseries, Inc., Ecumenical Ministries, Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, Portland State University, county jail managers, and community corrections agencies.

Upon the recommendation of the workgroup, in 2001, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 133 creating a planning and advisory committee that was directed to develop recommendations on how to increase family bonding for children who have parents incarcerated in state or community corrections systems for the purposes of reducing antisocial behavior and attachment disorder and reducing the intergenerational cycle of criminality. The planning and advisory committee consisted of representatives from:

- The Department of Corrections;
- The Oregon Youth Authority;
- The State Court Administrator;
- The State Commission on Children and Families;
- The Department of Education;
- The Department of Human Services;
- Local public safety coordinating councils;
- Local family law advisory committees;
- Local commissions on children and families;
- Local public health agencies; and
- Research and advocacy groups working on issues related to children of incarcerated parents.

Recommendations from the committee were submitted to the Oregon Legislature in December 2002. The committee developed recommendations across the criminal justice spectrum — arrest, jail, sentencing, prison and reentry — that will help support
children during the process of their parent’s involvement in the criminal justice system. Recommendations included:

- Developing child-sensitive arrest practices;
- Providing resources such as the booklet “How to Explain Jail and Prison to Children - A caregiver’s Guide” to parents and to caregivers;
- Providing officers of the court with resources to be used in judicial proceedings that will minimize trauma and disruption to children;
- Gathering information on children during the booking process;
- Reviewing policies on visiting, phone calls and mail to improve communication between parents and children;
- Providing inmate support during incarceration in the form of parenting skills classes and child-friendly visiting rooms;
- Developing a parent management skills program specifically for parents involved in the criminal justice system (the evidence-based Parenting Inside Out program was developed as a joint venture of the Oregon Department of Corrections and the Oregon Social Learning Center and is now offered in the majority of Oregon’s prisons);
- Developing an Early Head Start at the Coffee Creek Women’s Correctional Facility to give mothers and young children an opportunity to bond;
- Developing the Even Start Family Literacy program (the first in the nation);
- Providing corrections staff with training on understanding and responding appropriately to inmate families.

Since 2006, CJA has delivered its And How Are the Children? summit, a community approach to prioritizing, protecting and parenting children of incarcerated parents in ten Oregon counties. The summit acts as a catalyst, inspiring the county and its community members to commit themselves to systems improvements that will better support children of justice-involved parents and their families. The And How Are the Children? summit raises awareness of the challenges faced by children whose parents are justice-involved and provides strategies for communities and their justice and human service partners to work together to better meet the needs of these children. The issues associated with children of justice-involved parents are community issues and as such are best addressed by a community response. The primary goal of And How Are the Children? is to build a base of understanding and awareness that includes information about the impact of parental criminality on child development, family dynamics and the parent-child relationship.
As needed, and some on regular schedules, county and state representatives participate in meetings and information sharing with their perspective Children of Incarcerated Parents Projects. The meetings provide an opportunity for partners to share information, announce updates and events, and support one another’s initiatives within the context of improving outcomes and conditions for children with criminal justice involved families.

Positive outcomes resulting from the And How Are the Children? summits include:

- The Oregon Departments of Corrections and Human Services have worked together to support policies and programs which support the families they encounter. For example, improving visitation for children of incarcerated parents and providing Parenting Inside Out training for parents both in prison and in the community;
- The development of the Center for Family Success model, which gives communities a roadmap for developing partnerships and delivering services to better meet the needs of children of justice involved parents and their families;
- The development of jail and prison intake processes that collect information about the children, allowing for their needs to be considered.
Suggestions for Practitioners

2.25 million persons are incarcerated in federal, state, and local prisons serving an average sentence of 7.5 years. 62% of female prisoners and 51% of male prisoners have children under the age of 18. 1.7 million children have a parent in a federal or state prison (US Department of Justice, Bureau of Statistics, 2008).

If you are a mental health or chemical dependency or child welfare practitioner currently working with youth, chances are very high that some of the children you are working with have parents who are or have been incarcerated. Children and youth with parents who have prison records represent at least 15% of the youth seen in public mental health agencies. 41% of the children in foster care in Oregon have an incarcerated parent.

The issue of parental incarceration or criminal justice involvement may not have come up in treatment. Children and youth and their caregivers are frequently ashamed of admitting a family member’s involvement with the criminal justice system.

Below is a list of recommendations based on current research that was developed by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. It was developed by Ronnie San Nicholas, Miriam Bearse, and Tina Burrell (Behavioral Health Toolkit for Providers working with Children of the Incarcerated and their Families, 2009, [http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/dbhr/youthtxtoolkit.pdf](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/dbhr/youthtxtoolkit.pdf)) and is used with permission:

- Consciously raise the issue of incarceration in a non-judgmental way. Ask about how this has affected the youth or family. Recognize that youth in particular may experience significant stigma and prejudice based on incarceration of a parent. Also recognize that families might minimize their experiences based on fear of judgment or of “getting in trouble” again with social service and correctional systems.
- To the extent possible, track how many children or youth of the incarcerated are served by your agency.
- Explain to children and youth that their parent’s incarceration is not their fault, and help explore and challenge any feelings of self-blame or shame.
- Help children and youth explore their feelings about their parent(s), which can include anger, confusion, and self-identification with the incarcerated parent, grief and loss.
• Identify strengths in the family and natural supports, including stable relatives and positive peer groups. Connect youth to mentors who specialize in helping children of the incarcerated or support groups.

• Kinship caregivers or custodial parents may also face a combination of anger and loss, and benefit from specialized support. Encourage open and honest communication about a parent’s incarceration between caregivers or parents and children/youth, in age appropriate ways.

• Have conversations as allowed with parents, caregivers or child welfare staff to determine if contact with the incarcerated parent is possible and if it is beneficial. Contact may not be appropriate if the parent was abusive towards the child, and/or the other parent. If contact is allowed and the youth is interested in contact, try to encourage contact and visitation with the parent in prison or jail. Research shows that contact and visitation help to provide emotional stabilization for children and youth, and decreases problematic behaviors.

• Help youth prepare for and debrief from visits to assist in processing their expectations, experiences and feelings.

• As appropriate, engage in active team efforts with other providers in the life of the youth or family. Often families with incarceration histories engage multiple social service systems.

• Screen youths with an incarcerated parent or a parent with incarceration history for traumatic experiences and co-occurring disorders and coordinate treatment. Many children of the incarcerated have experienced other traumatic experiences. Use trauma-aware treatment strategies to help reduce negative outcomes.

• If you have a client who is an incarcerated parent or a parent with incarceration history, help them explore the impact this has had on their parenting skills, refer them to parenting groups as needed, and help connect them to other services to help build their skills in order to parent or be involved with their children as needed.

• Explore and recognize your own feelings about incarcerated persons and incarcerated parents. Access training or expand your knowledge if you encounter any stereotypes or assumptions.

• Create and promote support groups for youth and families facing this issue in your agency or area.

• Promote discussion among your peers and staff.
On Line Resources for Practitioners, Caregivers and Families

**How to Explain Jails and Prisons to Children: A Caregiver’s Guide** (Children’s Justice Alliance). Contains suggestions for caretakers on how to discuss incarceration with a young child. It includes a “story” to read with children which helps explain basic concepts.

**Visiting Tips for Families: Supporting Children Visiting their Parents** (Osbourne Association). Provides tips and information for caregivers and custodial parents on helping children understand and gain positive results from visiting an incarcerated parent.

**Visiting Mom or Dad: The Child’s Perspective** (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). Explains what caretakers or providers need to know about the experience of children visiting jails or prisons.

**Why Maintain Relationships?** (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). Summarizes the advantages for children and families of maintaining contact and visiting.

**Conversations - Questions Children Ask** (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). Summarizes the four key questions children ask when a parent is incarcerated.

**Communication Tips for Prisoners and Their Families** (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). Provides information to incarcerated parents to help guide their interactions with their children during in-person visits and other forms of contact.


**Caring for Children of Prisoners** (Adalist-Estrin, FCN) Provides helpful information for caregivers and social service providers on the challenges children face at each stage of development when a parent is incarcerated.

**Tips for Caregivers- from Caregivers** (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). Includes tips for caregivers for those who have “been there,” including tips on how to talk with family members.

**Questions from Caregivers** (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). Frequently asked questions from caregivers are answered, including suggestions on how to address common problems with children.

Resource Guide for Teens with a Parent in Prison or Jail (Project What). Written for teens in California, but contains information relevant for all teens with a parent in prison or jail.

Kinship Care When Parents Are Incarcerated: What We Know, What We Can Do (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2009). This paper explores the role of kinship care for children of parents currently incarcerated; examining the involvement of the child welfare system, and describing what can be done to develop more compassionate social policies and programs geared toward this population.

Focus on Children with Incarcerated Parents: An Overview of the Research (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2007). This report provides an overview of major research findings on children whose parents are incarcerated as a means of further informing this developing area of research, practice, and policy. The findings and policy and program suggestions offered in this synthesis are based primarily on research published during the last 20 years.

Understanding the Experiences and Needs of Children of Incarcerated Parents (Urban Institute, 2008). In order to better understand the experiences and needs of children with incarcerated parents, Urban Institute researchers sought the perspectives of mentors who work closely with these children. Focuses on the children’s living situations, relationships with their incarcerated parents and other family members, and emotional and behavioral outcomes.

Broken Bonds: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Children with Incarcerated Parents (Urban Institute, 2008). This report reviews the current research on children with incarcerated parents and offers recommendations on how to reduce the negative impact of parental incarceration, with particular attention to the role of supportive relationships with the incarcerated parent and other adults.
Online Training

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) developed a free on-line video training program for social workers and other social service professionals who work with children of the incarcerated and their families. This training consists of eight modules followed by a resource guide. These modules are summarized below. All of these modules can be found on the following website: http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/pubs/cfip.asp.

- **Introduction**: This section includes information on incarceration and the prevalence of parental incarceration, and research documenting the emotional, behavioral and developmental effects on children who have an incarcerated parent.
- **Voices of Youth Panel**: In this panel, youth who have had an incarcerated parent and have been involved in the child welfare system talk about their personal experiences.
- **Navigating Practice Challenges- Children**: This section discusses visitation between incarcerated parents and their children, mentoring and other supports for youth, behavioral health treatment, Juvenile Rehabilitation and Victim/Witness services.
- **Voices of Parents Panel**: In this panel, parents who have experienced incarceration and child welfare system involvement talk about their personal experiences.
- **Navigating Practice Challenges- Caregivers**: This section outlines supports available to relative caregivers and foster parents caring for a child of an incarcerated parent.
- **Navigating Practice Challenges- Parents**: This section includes; locating a parent in prison or jail, working effectively with incarcerated parents, housing, and child support.
- **Partner Agency Panel**: This panel includes representatives from agencies including the Department of Corrections (DOC). Each participant speaks about services and supports available through their agency for incarcerated parents and/or their children.
- **Voices of Stakeholders Panel**: Community leaders involved in promoting supports for children and families of the incarcerated speak about the importance of this issue.
- **Impact on Community**: This section focuses on the impact of incarceration on communities and outlines the efforts taking place to address the needs of children of the incarcerated and their families.
Documentary Films on the Experiences of Children of Incarcerated Parents

**A Sentence of Their Own**

A Film by Edgar Barens (2001)

“Chronicles one family’s annual pilgrimage to a new Hampshire state prison, revealing the damaging impact incarceration has on families. Makes visible what is rarely seen, the gradual descent of a family “doing time” on the outside, and calls for a closer examination and deeper understanding of our growing use of incarceration and its impact on families, communities, and our culture at large.”

**A Sentence for Two**

A Film by Randi Jacobs (2008)

A Sentence for Two follows three pregnant Oregon inmates through pregnancy, incarceration and delivery as they seek options for the uncertain futures of their newborns.

**The Circle is Round**

A film produced by Girl Scouts, aged 8 to 15, who participate in the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars program. (2006)

More than 20,000 children in the State of Oregon have a parent in prison. Girl Scouts is breaking the intergenerational cycle of incarceration through a courageous and innovative program known as Girl Scouts Beyond Bars. Twice each month Girl Scouts from across Oregon pass through secured gates and metal detectors to visit their incarcerated mothers. These mothers serve as troop leaders and work to re-establish their relationships with their daughters through Girl Scout programming that teaches healthy decision-making skills and positive values.
Books for Providers, Caregivers and Children
Links for ordering books can be found at the Children’s Justice Alliance website
www.childrensjusticealliance.org, on the “Recommended Books” tab under the “Resources” page.

Providers and Caregivers

Children of Incarcerated Parents
Editors: Katherine Gabel and Denise Johnston (Lexington Books, 1995)
“Children of criminal, jailed or imprisoned parents have long been identified as being at high risk for juvenile delinquency...this one of a kind book outlines for professionals working with these children the optimum time to provide intervention following significant trauma, and shows that direct preventative and early intervention services to children of offenders can help them.” The authors offer guidance to aid social workers, psychologists, and others who work with children whose parents are in prison to help meet the children's needs and prevent future delinquency, adult offenses, and ultimately, cross-generational incarceration.

Children of Incarcerated Parents: Theoretical Developmental and Clinical Issues
Authors: Yvette R. Harris PhD., James A. Graham, PhD., Gloria Jean Carpenter PhD. (Springer Publishing Co., 2010)
Children of Incarcerated Parents addresses developmental and clinical issues experienced throughout the trajectory of childhood and adolescence with a focus on interventions and social policies to improve outcomes for this under-studied group. The chapters explore individual, community, and national levels of policy, programming, and legislation.

All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated
Author: Nell Bernstein (New Press, 2005)
Children of prisoners: who even thinks about them? Journalist Bernstein, who grew up with an incarcerated father, puts a face on this population with staggering statistics and personal stories of children like Susana, who has embraced her father only once in her life, and Carl, who told the jailhouse Santa that all he wanted for Christmas was for his mother to come home. The book includes suggestions for policy makers and social service providers.
**Family Arrested**

Author: Ann Edenfield (Americana, 2002)

A useful summary written for families by a woman whose husband was incarcerated for many years. It contains tips for families on how to survive economically and emotionally.

**Empowering Children of Incarcerated Parents**

Author: Stacey Burgess, Tonia Caselman, Jennifer Carsey (YouthLight 2009)

This book is for counselors, social workers, psychologists and teachers who work with children ages 7-12 who have a parent who is in jail or prison. It is designed so that work can be done individually or in small groups.

**When a Parent Goes to Jail: A Comprehensive Guide for Counseling Children of Incarcerated Parents**

Authors: Rebecca Yaffe and Lonnie Hoade (Rayve Productions Inc., 2000)

The authors go through the entire incarceration process from arrest through fingerprinting to appearing before a judge and sentencing. They describe the feelings that children might be having (sad, angry, confused, etc.) and encourage them to talk about these emotions. Changes that might take place at home are mentioned, and visits to the incarcerated person are covered. The book can be used with individuals or small groups of children in therapeutic settings. This is a book to read with children to help them understand their parent’s situation and explore their feelings.

**Mothering from the Inside: Parenting in a Woman’s Prison**

Author: Sandra Enos (SUNY Press 2001)

This book explores how inmate mothers find places for their children to live, manage relationships with caregivers, demonstrate their fitness as mothers and negotiate rights to their children under challenging circumstances. Illustrates the impact of race, ethnicity, and marginality.

**Prisoners Once Removed: The Impact of Incarceration and Reentry on Children, Families and Communities**

Editors: Jeremy Travis and Michelle Waul (Urban Institute Press, 2003)

For every person who goes to prison, there is a family and community left behind. This book looks at family functioning during a period of imprisonment, and how families are affected by the return of an incarcerated parent.
Loving Through Bars: Children with Parents in Prison

Author: Cynthia Martone (Santa Monica Press, 2005)

Written by an educational administrator, this book explores the difficulties children face in maintaining relationships with incarcerated parents. Not only are these children “innocent victims,” they can also be lost in a vicious cycle that can lead to future criminality and deviant social behavior. The author provides dramatic and haunting testimony of the devastating impact parental incarceration has on children.

Doing Time Together: Love and Family in the Shadow of Prison

Author: Megan Comfort (University of Chicago Press, 2008)

Documents how the wives and girlfriends of inmates experience, directly and vicariously, the pains of confinement and the humiliations of imprisonment. The author spent several years getting to know women visiting men at San Quentin State Prison.

Loss, Trauma and Resilience: Therapeutic Work with Ambiguous Loss

Author: Pauline Boss (Norton, 2006)

All losses are touched with ambiguity. Yet those who suffer losses without finality bear a particular burden. Pauline Boss, the principal theorist of the concept of ambiguous loss, guides clinicians in the task of building resilience in clients who face the trauma of loss without resolution. Boss describes a concrete therapeutic approach that is at once directive and open to the complex contexts in which people find meaning and discover hope in the face of ambiguous losses.

Children

My Daddy is in Jail: Story, Discussion Guide and Small Group Activity Guide for Grades K-5

Author: Janet M. Bender (YouthLight, 2003)

My Daddy is in Jail is a resource for helping children cope with the incarceration of a loved one. It includes a read-aloud story, discussion guide, caregiver suggestions and optional small group counseling activities. With this book, helping professionals, and other caring adults, will find themselves better equipped to provide information and support to these vulnerable children and their families.
**Visiting Day**

Author: Jacqueline Woodson (Scholastic Press, 2002)

A little girl and her grandmother get ready for visiting day. As they make their preparations, the girl's father--who adores her--is getting ready too. Features an African-American family.

**What is Jail, Mommy?**

Author: Jackie Stanglin (Lifevest Publishing, 2006)

This book was inspired by a five year old whose father had been incarcerated most of her life. One day after visiting with friends who have both devoted parents in the home, this little girl blurted out to her mother in frustration, "What is jail anyway, and why can't Daddy be home with us?" She needed answers! When the truth is withheld from children they tend to blame themselves for other's mistakes and shortcomings. Also in Spanish.

**When Andy’s Father Went to Prison**

Author: Martha W. Hickman (Albert Whitman & Company, 1990)

A factual yet sensitive picture book about a boy's father being sent to prison. The black-and-white illustrations of predominately white characters match the detailed story of the sobering event. One feels the quiet sadness Andy experiences in first discovering his father is guilty of a crime, and then the harder task of facing the day-to-day changes this fact has made in his life.

**Harry Sue**

Author: Sue Stauffacher (Yearling, 2007)

Eleven-year-old Harry Sue Clotkin is the only child of convicted felons. She has been sentenced to live with her abusive Granny who runs a squalid in-home daycare center. When she’s not protecting the “crumb-snatchers” from her cruel Granny, visiting her best friend who is a quadriplegic or maintaining her tough-girl image at school, Harry Sue dreams of becoming a “conette” and joining her mother in prison. But as hard as she tries to be tough, Harry Sue cannot ignore the suffering of those around her, nor can she deny that throbbing in her chest—her heart.
**The Same Stuff as Stars**

Author: Katherine Paterson (HarperCollins, 2004)

With her signature insight and grace, two-time Newbery Medalist Katherine Paterson tells the compassionate, moving story of one girl's struggle to hold her family together. Eleven-year-old Angel Morgan, despite her youth, is the head of her family. With a father in jail for robbery and murder, and Verna, her mother, too preoccupied with herself to care for anyone else, Angel looks out for her seven-year-old brother. She keeps a house key around her neck and taxi money in her sock, "just in case."

**Letters from Prison**

Author: Monique Holyfield (Youthlight, 2008)

Living in such a reality based world, it is difficult as educators and adult leaders to get through to some teens today. *Letters from Prison* is a riveting way to reach young people who are at high risk of getting into trouble or have already experienced some difficulty. These letters provide a real look at what happens when you make poor choices or act on impulses. The discussion questions that follow each letter help teens to look at the risk factors that lead to the person getting into trouble. Afterwards the teen can reflect on their own life by journaling what they learned from reading that particular letter.

**Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights**

Author: Julie Nelson (Free Spirit Publishing, 2006)

All families change over time. Sometimes a baby is born, or a grown-up gets married. And sometimes a child gets a new foster parent or a new adopted mom or dad. Children need to know that when this happens, it’s not their fault. They need to understand that they can remember and value their birth family and love their new family, too. Straightforward words and full-color illustrations offer hope and support for children facing or experiencing change. Includes resources and information for birth parents, foster parents, social workers, counselors, and teachers.
A Terrible Thing Happened - A story for children who have witnessed violence or trauma

Author: Margaret M. Holmes

Sherman Smith saw the most terrible thing happen. At first he tried to forget about it, but something inside him started to bother him. He felt nervous and had bad dreams. Then he met someone who helped him talk about the terrible thing, and made him feel better. This is a wonderful book for teachers or parents to use with younger children.

Help for Kids: Understanding Your Feelings About Having a Parent in Prison or Jail

Author: Carole Gesme (Pine Tree Press, 1993)

A resource for children and parents. This workbook encourages kids to answer questions by drawing pictures, writing words or talking to someone. It is designed to help children recognize that their feelings are important, to think about their feelings and decide what to do about their feelings.

Support Organizations

Many organizations provide support or information for children and families of incarcerated persons. The following is a partial listing of these organizations.

The Children’s Justice Alliance supports stable, healthy families through programming at its Center for Family Success and promotes systems change through public information campaigns and trainings.

The National Institute of Corrections provides a wealth of information and resources for inmates and their families from incarceration through reentry.

Family and Corrections Network (FCN) has resources and referrals for kinship caregivers and others with incarcerated family members.

The Center for Children with Incarcerated Parents (CCIP) offers counseling and support services for prisoners and their children.

The Offender Preparation and Education Network Inc. (OPEN) provides self-help resources and other information for offenders and families on subjects ranging from addiction and motivation to employment and reentry.
The San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership formulated the “Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights” based on the work of Friends Outside. They offer training for agencies and groups interested in learning more about children of incarcerated parents.

Lives in Focus: Family Life Behind Bars provides networking and other information for families affected by incarceration.

The National Incarcerated Parents and Families Network (NIPFN) offers on-line support for families and training for professionals working with incarcerated parents.

Pennies for Prison is a project raising money to provide parenting programs for inmate parents. It also offers networking, information and supports.

Mentoring and Support for Children

Big Brothers Big Sisters. Big Brothers Big Sisters have been providing mentors for youth for more than 100 years. A mentor can provide the child of an incarcerated parent additional focus and attention they may be lacking while his/her parent is absent.

Mentoring Children of Prisoners: Caregiver’s Choice MENTOR. MENTOR’s role is to bring mentoring programs and children with incarcerated parents together to facilitate quality new mentoring relationships. The Oregon partner for MENTOR is Oregon Mentors. MENTOR helps caregivers find the right mentoring program for the children in their care.

Amachi. Amachi is a partnership of faith-based and secular organizations offering mentoring to children of incarcerated parents. In Oregon, Amachi is part of Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest.

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps provides grants to counties for summer youth camps for youth. The website lists the grantees each year who can be contacted about youth employment opportunities.

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars. Girl Scouts Beyond Bars operates a program for girls whose mothers are incarcerated at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville.

Support for Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren
**Grands Place**. Website for support groups and legal resources for grandparents raising grandchildren.

**Research on Children of Incarcerated Parents**

**The Antisocial Behavior of the Adolescent Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Developmental Perspective** (Eddy and Reid, OSLC, 2002). This study summarizes the relationship between a parent’s criminality and the antisocial behaviors of adolescents with incarcerated parents, the behaviors and symptoms that children and youth display when a parent is incarcerated, the effect of education programs in prison for parents, and effective interventions that can assist adolescent children of the incarcerated.

**The Effects of Childhood Stress On Health Across the Lifespan** (US DHHS CDC 2008). This report succinctly summarizes the short and long-term effects on children of chronic and/or severe stress, including incarceration of a family member. Data focuses on the results of the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study.

**Parental Incarceration and Child Wellbeing in Fragile Families** (Fragile Families Research Brief, Princeton/Columbia 2008). This paper summarizes an extensive study of urban families with an incarcerated parent, including effects on economic outcomes, family stability, and child development.

**Childhood Loss and Behavioral Problems: Loosening the Links** (Viboch, Vera 2005). This article explains the connection between parental incarceration and child misbehavior. The effects of grief and loss, responding effectively to children’s feelings of loss, helping kids understand parental incarceration, and fostering stability and security for children are presented.

**Broken Bonds: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Children with Incarcerated Parents** (Vigne, Davies, Brazzell, Urban Institute 2008). This report summarizes the impacts that the changes in daily life related to the incarceration of a parent brings to a family including the emotional and behavioral impacts on children and protective factors that help children build resilience.

**Families Left Behind: The Hidden Costs of Incarceration and Reentry** (Travis, McBride, Solomon, Urban Institute 2005). Oriented towards social service providers, this report summarizes developmental the effects of parental incarceration on children including how imprisonment alters family dynamics, the challenges and benefits of visitation and contact, challenges of reunification, reintegration and the role that families have in providing support and stabilization.
Children of DOC Incarcerated Parents Use DSHS Services at Very High Rates (DSHS 2008). This link provides a report issued in August 2008 by DSHS’ Research and Data Analysis Division. It includes initial data that matches DSHS data sources to DOC and Department of Health data and provides information on what social services children of incarcerated parents receive, and where they live within the state of Washington.
Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights

Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights (San Francisco Partnership of Incarcerated Parents)

1. I have the right TO BE KEPT SAFE AND INFORMED AT THE TIME OF MY PARENT’S ARREST.
2. I have the right TO BE HEARD WHEN DECISIONS ARE MADE ABOUT ME.
3. I have the right TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN DECISIONS ARE MADE ABOUT MY PARENT.
4. I have the right TO BE WELL CARED FOR IN MY PARENT’S ABSENCE.
5. I have the right TO SPEAK WITH, SEE AND TOUCH MY PARENT.
6. I have the right TO SUPPORT AS I STRUGGLE WITH MY PARENT’S INCARCERATION.
7. I have the right NOT TO BE JUDGED, BLAMED OR LABELED BECAUSE OF MY PARENT’S INCARCERATION.
8. I have the right TO A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PARENT.
Locating Inmates and Visitation Procedures for Oregon Prisons

DOC Inmate Locator

Inmates in the Oregon Department of Corrections can be located through the Oregon Department of Corrections website (Find Offender Information):

http://docpub.state.or.us/OOS/intro.jsf

You will need the inmate’s name or SID number.

Inmate Services Unit

The Inmate Services Unit administers visitation. Information on visitation rules and mail rules can be found at:

http://www.oregon.gov/DOC/OPS/inmate_services_unit.shtml

Information on Oregon’s correctional institutions can be found at:

http://www.oregon.gov/DOC/OPS/index.shtml

Each institution has its own web site, which can be accessed from the link above.

A list of DOC institutions is included in this document and can be found on page

Information on Reentry and transitional services can be found at the Oregon Reentry Wiki: http://oregonreentry.wikidot.com/start

Locating Inmates and Visitation Procedures for Oregon Jails

Each county has its own website. From the county website homepage you can navigate to the sheriff’s office web page where there are links to the inmate locator and visitor information.

County web sites can be located through the Oregon Blue Book at:

http://bluebook.state.or.us/local/counties/counties.htm

Locating Inmates and Visitation Procedures Federal Prisons

To find parents housed in a federal prison go to the federal inmate locator. Each federal facility has its own visitation hours and procedures. General visitation and contact guidelines can be viewed here.
**List of Oregon Prisons**

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility  
24499 SW Grahams Ferry Road  
Wilsonville, OR 97070  
Information: (503) 570-6400  
Women’s minimum and medium security

Powder River Correctional Facility  
3600 - 13th Street  
Baker City, Oregon 97814-1346  
Information: (541) 523-6680  
Men’s medium security

Columbia River Correctional Institution  
9111 NE Sunderland Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97211-1799  
Information: (503) 280-6646 ext 241  
Men’s medium security

Santiam Correctional Institution  
4005 Aumsville Hwy SE  
Salem, Oregon 97317  
Information: (503) 378-2144  
Men’s minimum security

Deer Ridge Correctional Institution  
3920 East Ashwood Road  
Madras, Oregon 97741  
Information: (541) 325-5999  
Men’s minimum and medium security

Shutter Creek Correctional Institution  
95200 Shutters Landing Lane  
North Bend, Oregon 97459-0303  
Information: (541) 756-6666  
Men’s minimum security

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution  
2500 Westgate  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801-9699  
Information: (541) 276-0700  
Men’s medium security

Snake River Correctional Institution  
777 Stanton Blvd  
Ontario, Oregon 97914-8335  
Information: (541) 881-5000  
Men’s multi-level security

Mill Creek Correctional Facility  
5465 Turner Road SE  
Salem, Oregon 97317  
Information: (503) 378-2600  
Men’s minimum security

South Fork Forest Camp  
48300 Wilson River Hwy  
Tillamook, OR 97141-9799  
Information: (503) 842-2811  
Men’s minimum security

Oregon State Correctional Institution  
3405 Deer Park Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon 97310-9385  
Information: (503) 373-0125  
Men’s medium security

Two Rivers Correctional Institution  
82911 Beach Access Rd  
Umatilla, OR 97882  
Information: (541) 922-2001  
Men’s minimum and medium security

Oregon State Penitentiary  
2605 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310-0505  
Information: (503) 378-2453  
Men’s medium and maximum security

Warner Creek Correctional Facility  
P.O. Box 1500  
20654 Rabbit Hill Road  
Lakeview, OR 97730-5000  
Information: (541) 947-8200  
Men’s medium security