



Eric Gonzalez
Acting District Attorney

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KINGS COUNTY
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IN MEMORIAM
DISTRICT ATTORNEY KENNETH P. THOMPSON
(1966-2016)

Kings County Re-Entry Task Force
Bi-Monthly Meeting of October 4, 2017 – Minutes

Meeting Date:	Wednesday, October 4, 2017	
Meeting Time:	12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	
Meeting Location:	Office of the Kings County District Attorney 350 Jay Street, 19th Floor – Bob Kaye Room, Brooklyn, NY 11201	
Attendees: (From Attendance Sheet signatures)	<p>AHRC NYC: F. Louis AMERICA WORKS OF NY: A. Cisse, A. Smitherman Anthony, Y. APPELLATE ADVOCATES: C. Ransom</p> <p>BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD 9: P. Baker, S. Bennett, M. Moore BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES: S. Hamilton, J. Royall BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY: M. Carey THE BURNING HOUSE PROJECT, INC.: M. Blackman</p> <p>CENTER FOR APPELLATE LITIGATION: S. Karlin CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE / PROJECT CONNECT <i>(SEE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)</i> COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PROJECT E-WORTH – SOCIAL INTERVENTION GROUP: C. Black COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY – PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT: Dr. L. Heiphetz</p> <p>COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY: T. Frederic, C. Jesse CORNELL UNIVERSITY ILR – CORNELL PROJECT FOR RECORDS ASSISTANCE: T. McNutt COUNSELING SERVICES EASTERN DISTRICT NEW YORK: D. Tolbert</p> <p>DEFY VENTURES: R. Chase, T. Hall, I. Baker THE DOE FUND / READY, WILLING & ABLE: A. Isaacs</p> <p>EASTER SEALS: R. Lambert <i>Ellis, G.</i></p> <p>FAMILIES, FATHERS AND CHILDREN: E. Edelman FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROWN HEIGHTS: D. Odom FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (BROOKLYN HEIGHTS): D. Grimes <i>[SEE CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE]</i> THE FORTUNE SOCIETY: J. Dawson, A. Travers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KINGS COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE</p> <p>KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE Hon. Eric Gonzalez, Acting District Attorney / Co-Chair Christopher Owens, Co-Chair Designate Director, The Re-Entry Bureau Norma Fernandes, Case Manager Andrea Johnson, Case Manager Constance Johnson, Case Manager</p> <p>NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (DOCCS) Lewis Squillaciotti, Co-Chair Designate / Assistant Regional Director, Brooklyn Audrey Thompson, Re-entry Manager, Brooklyn Region</p> <p>NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES Hon. Robert Maccarone, Deputy Commissioner Margaret Chretien</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY</p> <p><u>The Re-Entry Bureau</u> Eric Smith, Coordinator, Outreach & Logistics</p> <p><u>ComALERT</u> Maria Abadia, Program Administrator Kelly Burns, Case Manager Yukia Napoleon, Case Manager Nia Garcia, Case Manager</p> <p>Colleen Babb, Bureau Chief, The School Advocacy Bureau</p>

<p>FRIENDS OF ISLAND ACADEMY: K. Mill, A. Sanders FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Min. C. Royall GOOD SHEPHERD SERVICES: G. Miller</p> <p>HEALTHCARE CHOICES: P. Ammendola HOUR CHILDREN: K. Phelan, INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, LLC: L. Lewis, K. Montgomery LAMBDA INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS OF BROOKLYN: T. Burrows <i>Levy, A.</i> <i>Mahone, K.</i> MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE OASIS BEACON: W. Boone MT. PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH: Rev. B. Bailey, Min. G. Noel-Chamble</p> <p>NYC AGENCY FOR CHILDRENS SERVICES: M. Dunbar NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: W. Whitaker NYC HOUSING AUTHORITY: S. Figueroa, S. Hall, C. Kim, Y. Tandon NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE: J. Phillips NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION: D. Barometre (Queensboro), Bishop J. Jones (Queensboro) NYS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: I. Gonzalez, J. Oh NYS STATE SENATE – HON. JESSE HAMILTON: J. Del Aguila</p> <p>ODYSSEY HOUSE: M. McDermott THE OSBORNE ASSOCIATION: A. Hollihan, S. Rivas, L. Talukder PATHWAYS TO LOVE & HEALING GROUP: B. Riddick PRISON FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES: A. Taylor PRISON WRITES: J. Hall QUEENS COUNTY RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE: H. Lila RAWM, INC.: Rev. G. Ferrand READY, WILLING & ABLE [SEE THE DOE FUND] REALIZATION CENTER: W. Molina</p> <p>SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: T. Brock SETTLE IN NYC: J. Onyeagbako STRONG HOUSE LLC: J. Smith VERTEX OUTPATIENT PROGRAM: E. Emery, P. Henderson</p>	
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ITEM DESCRIPTION AND ACTION ITEMS		
1	Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Christopher R. Owens, KCRTF Co-Chair designate, at 12:30 pm.
2	Opening Remarks & Presentation of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Owens acknowledged the excellent attendance by those in the audience. • Mr. Owens gave a brief description of The Re-entry Bureau’s work and history. • Mr. Owens noted that the KCRT Program Administrator is vacant and the vacancy is in the process of being filled, with applications accepted until the coming Friday, October 6. • Agenda for December 6th meeting will have employment as the theme and will honor Dr. Vanda Seward for her work with the KCRTF. Mr. Owens invited participation on the panel. • Mr. Owens introduced co-chair Lewis Squillacioti from NYS DOCCS. • Mr. Owens brought attention to the agenda packet, including the attendance list with contact information, and asked for corrections to be brought to his attention. • Mr. Owens highlighted the www.brooklyda.org web pages for more current information.
3	Coordinator’s Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Owens noted the inclusion of quarterly reports for NYC-area task forces for the quarter ending June 30th. • Mr. Owens has acknowledged Brooklyn’s under-performance on contact metrics, but noted that the performance in the area of intakes had improved during the last quarter. He thanked the Brooklyn region of DOCCS (Brooklyn Parole) for their assistance. • Mr. Owens introduced the KCRTF case managers and highlighted the August intakes by case manager

		<p>Norma Fernandes (41).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Owens noted that case manager Andrea Johnson was running the current cohort of Thinking For A Change, which will be ending soon. • Mr. Owens noted that the newest case manager, Constance Johnson, will also be trained in cognitive-behavioral interventions to assist with the service delivery. • Mr. Owens highlighted the ongoing Rephidim Ministry sessions at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights. There are participants whose family members are either currently or formerly incarcerated and there has been a direct impact on the participants. • Mr. Owens noted that the KCDA is committed to doing more on the outreach side regarding re-entry in the near future. The changes taking place in society influence everything that the programs must confront and do.
4	Introductions	<p>Mr. Owens noted that live introductions will be skipped, for the most part, and attendees should use the list of names with contact information that is included within the packet. First-time attendees were asked to stand up and introduce themselves, which they did.</p> <p>Mr. Owens noted that Wendy Hersh (ACCES-VR) is recovering from surgery. He then asked for a moment of silence in memory of the late District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson.</p>
6	Reports / Concerns	Tabled.
7	<p>Guest Presentations</p> <p><i>(Please note that the excerpts presented hear were transcribed from an audio recording and may contain errors. Please bring any issues to our attention.)</i></p>	<p>THEME: “Incarceration And Children”</p> <p>KELLIE PHALEN (Program Director, HOUR CHILDREN): Three programs help re-unite incarcerated women with their children. Gave birth to her youngest daughter 10 years ago while incarcerated on Rikers Island. She has been home for 10 years. Her work is “street knowledge” has empowered her to do the mentoring and other work that she does today for other women and children, and Hour Children experience saved her life.</p> <p>ELLEN EDELMAN (Founder, FAMILIES, FATHERS AND CHILDREN): Started working on incarceration-related issues some 10 years ago. Old fatherhood programs focused on fathers in the community, but not those who were incarcerated. Started off driving a passenger van with mothers and children traveling to prisons to see fathers. Visits have continued over the years. After-school programming has also been developed for children of incarcerated individuals. Biggest lesson learned was that children will express their “stories” through art – their feelings, the narratives, etc. There is a misperception that a locked up Dad is not needed; that is not the case at all. For a child to be confident in his own history, he has to be able to deal with his biological dad. There are a number of barriers to family relationships – 75 – 150 barriers. Some barriers are addressable through activism.</p> <p>Distance is a key barrier for families and children and it must be reduced. The majority of facility residents are from NYC, but the facilities are great distances away. For women, if you’re at Albion, you’re near the Canadian border. Fathers can be in one of 59+ facilities. There are only three in the five boroughs. Comfort for family travel is lacking as well. NYS needs to restore free buses for families.</p> <p>Letter-writing is critical to lawmakers – particularly to the Governor. Emphasize the impact on children and families, as well as whether or not one lives in the relevant district and will be voting.</p> <p>Ms. Edelman shared samples of the children’s art. Mr. Owens noted that during the previous weekend a two-day art project and exhibition was held at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights and was visited by more than 100 people.</p> <p>MICHAEL DUNBAR (NYC AGENCY FOR CHILDRENS SERVICES): 20 years of experience working with ACS and having received various trainings. ACS has been attempting to improve relationships with community fathers. Information is often not shared with the agency due to fears about “the system” and the removal of children. Cases every day reflect the impact of incarceration on children – their behavior. Fathers are a big force in the lives of ALL children – including daughters. During the past 18 months, a more aggressive approach to the Family Assistance and Response Program has emerged in Brooklyn. Putting aside institutional biases is a critical factor. Example: Inclusion of fathers in family maintenance discussions is too infrequent; incarceration should not be allowed to exclude the father from involvement. Many fathers want to</p>

be involved with their children. The bias, however, states that “because he is incarcerated, he cannot be a father.”

The groups tackle biases by creating “geno-grams” of the family and getting a full psycho-sociological understanding of the family dynamics. Going out to community members to get information about the family is an important part of what is needed. Fathers want to be involved and, little by little, they are becoming more involved. All the ACS borough offices in Brooklyn are changing their approaches.

Example: Formerly-incarcerated father took time from work schedule to go to child’s school and was dressed for work. He felt he was treated as a second-class parent by the school staff based upon his appearance. Individual appreciated the ACS willingness to understand all of the challenges out there for him and his family.

The number of children with parents who are either incarcerated or in foster care are greatest in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

COLLEEN BABB (Bureau Chief, School Advocacy Bureau, KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT

ATTORNEY’S OFFICE): Handle 14-15 year-old juvenile offenders, though that will now be changing with the “raise the age.” Also involved with presentations designed to help children avoid criminal activity and the criminal justice system. Looking to schools and defense attorneys to help assess the problems with the system and work to “break the cycle” and reduce/avoid incarceration.

Young boys with no father in the house feel that they have to “the man of the house” – which puts financial pressure and other pressures and leads to poor choices. There are many programs designed to assist children with those life decisions and avoid incarceration. Positive role models are always needed. Young girls don’t know that there are lady lawyers and lady judges who are “just like them.” “Filling the void” is paramount.

DR. LARISSA HEIPHETZ (Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

[See attached materials]: Taught at Suffolk County House of Correction while studying psychology. Students, however, were questioning the relevance of their studies. At Columbia, one focus is learning more about the lives of children who have an incarcerated parent. Conducting research with various population cohorts regarding their perceptions of prisons. Using structural and behavioral explanations about prison leads to fewer judgmental conclusions that people who are there are inherently “bad” – have something wrong with them.

Recommendation: More structural and behavioral explanations regarding prison and incarceration are needed (and are not being provided now to most people) and fewer “internal” explanations should be used to avoid the worst perceptions of incarceration or incarcerated people.

Follow-up is utilizing the recommended approach to see how children’s perceptions are influenced. The research and relevant tools examine these issues in greater depth. Single interviews with young children in a kid-friendly space at Columbia. The dataset is being enriched and combed in an aggregated manner to generate results for publication. Always looking for more children to interview and families to work with.

ALLISON HOLLIHAN (Senior Policy Manager, THE OSBORNE ASSOCIATION) [See attached

materials]: Policy Center focuses on the aging incarcerated population as well as children of incarcerated parents. Advocate for the “Children of Incarcerated Children Bill of Rights.” On any given day, how many children have an incarcerated parent? 2.7 million children nationwide; 1 of every 28 children with greater concentrations in communities of color and poorer communities. 1 of 9 African American children has an incarcerated parent on any given day. Data is hard to come by. Estimate that 148,000 children on any given day in NYS have an incarcerated parent. **Situation is defined as an “adverse childhood experience” (ACE) for each of these children by the Centers for Disease Control (US). Concentrations of ACEs lead to longer-term health challenges for children.**

It is important to take a strength-based approach to these factors, rather than assume that these factors are all-powerful in determining a child’s outcomes.

- Peer support is empowering for children. Osborne has various programs for young people built on this approach.
- Visiting supports children’s well-being and is also a critical component of successful re-entry. Osborne has visiting centers at some facilities. Video visiting is also taking place through the Brooklyn Public Library, as well as other initiatives and organizations will be helping. But video visiting is not a total substitute for

“in person” visitations.

- Facility locations deter visiting. Legislation is designed to change the way visitations are implemented and the restoration of free buses, as well as how DOCCS takes children into account when placing individuals.

Re-entry is stressful for kids. How to relate to the “new” adult? Will the parent relapse? Unfulfilled promises made by returning parents lead to tensions. Are programs really family-focused? Are ensuring that parents are facing minimal conflicts between program or work obligations and involvement with their child’s life?

Osborne has partnered with NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives to advocate for parenting information being included in pre-sentencing reports to the judge/courts to influence the parent’s situation during incarceration and re-entry. This information is helpful for the parent and DOCCS.

Children need to be safeguarded when parents are subject to arrest. Protocols are being developed and utilized by various police departments to mitigate trauma to children and to facilitate care for children.

Stigma surrounds these children – and there is shame attached to it all. The inter-generational cycles involve poverty and trauma but do NOT guarantee that the child of an incarcerated parent will be incarcerated. Many children “succeed” despite the trauma of having an incarcerated parent. It is important, therefore, to acknowledge and promote the strength and resiliency of children and to assume that they CAN reach their full potential in life. The “messaging” needs to be appropriate.

The child’s perspective matters. Teachers and other adults need to be quite sensitive to the vocabulary of incarceration, for example.

Osborne has a “Resource Toolbox” and other information designed to assist individuals who want to learn more and become more involved with these issues.

[ACTING DISTRICT ATTORNEY ERIC GONZALEZ JOINED THE MEETING.]

QUESTIONS:

What is the impact of the children’s situation on the incarcerated parent?

Dunbar: ACS has “Family Team” meetings which can be very uncomfortable but are designed to convey the message that “judgement” is not the issue – the child’s issues and concerns are the issue. Sometimes the child may be included and may participate verbally or artistically. Parental awareness is heightened and then addressed. Biases can also be revealed and addressed. The process is time-consuming but it does get results. Goals are needed and the stigmas must be pulled away.

Heiphetz: Topic of “parenting” was addressed in research – including with men in prison. Men were not interested in coming across as vulnerable, but the fathers seemed to have a greater motivation to succeed upon release.

Phalen: Mentors within correctional facilities work to ensure that parents stay involved with children’s schooling and other aspects of their lives. The process of improving relationships is long and painful but can happen. Kelly’s eldest daughter opened up after learning of the new baby, and wanted a real and more positive relationship. Mother and daughter participated in therapy, individual and group, and there is still anger and pain. Honesty is essential to the healing process and comes in different forms. Kelly’s youngest daughter learned of her birth situation (born on Rikers) from a televised interview and that disclosure forced an honest confrontation. The eldest daughter still seems separated at times, which still creates issues.

Babb: Communication is the critical component for the relationships. Honesty breaks down the barriers. Hollihan: Age-appropriate truths regarding incarceration situations are absolutely necessary. Sesame Street has a tool kit that can help parents and families address the children’s questions. Honesty is essential with the children.

Audience Comments: Children are addressing traumas in their lives but need to be seen as “children of promise.” That perspective is essential for long-term success.

		<p>What can we do to help you? Phalen: Hour Children needs mentors – people who will bring out the fun in children. Teen program needs guests who can address various social challenges faced by teens. Hollihan: Assistance with advocacy is needed. Heiphetz: More children for the research studies.</p> <p>ACTING DISTRICT ATTORNEY ERIC GONZALEZ: We lost Ken Thompson almost a year ago. He was a friend and someone with a justice vision that the ADA shared. The ADA grew up in Williamsburg and East New York and witnessed the results of many crimes and this motivated his interest in becoming a DA. The ADA wants to continue the initiatives of Ken Thompson, such as re-entry work. The resources will be provided to make better re-entry opportunities a reality. The commitment to true public safety – including re-entry -- is deep-rooted, including losing a brother to gun violence. There is good news in Brooklyn, particularly with regard to gun violence. 2017 is the safest year we have had. If you have ideas for what the District Attorney’s office should be doing going forward, please share those thoughts. There will be a renewed focus on young people, but all ideas are welcome.</p> <p>DCJS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROBERT MACCARONE: Commissioner was a former prosecutor in Westchester and appreciates the Brooklyn ADA’s broader vision. “Being the chief law enforcement officer is more than a prosecutor – it’s recognizing that community safety and the quality of people’s lives, and procedural justice – a belief that justice is fair – is so important, it’s paramount to community safety.” Queensboro Deputy Superintendent Barometre was introduced. Queensboro has a population that does not stay there long and programs are welcome to come and remain present to ensure that services are understood and available.</p> <p>Changes at the Kings County Task Force have been noted by the Commissioner and there is respect for the passion and commitment to good re-entry that exudes from the DA’s office and the Task Force. So what sort of service can each of you provide to the re-entry efforts and this Task Force?</p> <p>Fatherhood programs are so important and make such a difference. Housing is the critical issue at this time for re-entry stabilization, which lays the foundation for addressing criminogenic needs in the best way. Cognitive Behavioral Interventions are tools of success that can enable individuals living in fear of re-incarceration to find that different path.</p> <p>Hubert Lila, Queens County Re-entry Task Force: Attendees were invited to attend meeting on October 11th, which will focus on housing.</p>
7	New Business / Events	<p>The new radio show “Visions and Solutions: A Criminal Justice Evolution,” hosted by Dr. Vanda Seward, will premiere on October 28th. This 60-minute program can be heard on WKRB 90.3 every Saturday from 9 am to 10 am, and Sunday from 4 pm to 5 pm. The program can also be accessed on the internet: wkrb.org. Inquiries can be made to visionsandsolutionsradio@gmail.com. The Kings County District Attorney’s office will have special guests on the show scheduled for the week of December 16, 2017.</p>
8	Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.</p>

NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

2017 KCRTF meetings are proposed for 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm on these first Wednesdays

2018 Meetings: Feb 7, Apr 4, Jun 6, Aug 1, Oct 3, Dec 5

Please mark your calendars. Locations may vary.

Corrections to these Minutes should be emailed to OwensC1@BrooklynDA.org

Information pertaining to events should also be emailed

Learning From Children of Incarcerated Parents

Larisa Heiphetz

Department of Psychology

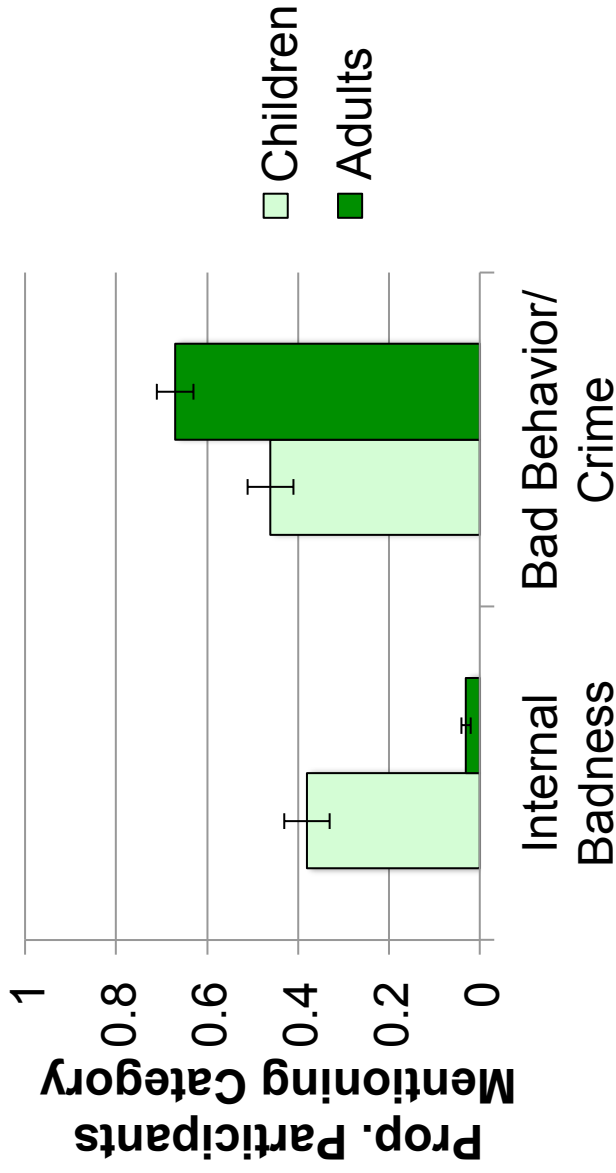
Columbia University

BUMPAH
STICKAH
FOR THE CAH!



What We've Been Working On So Far

- Interviewed children (who didn't know any incarcerated people) & adults
- “What do you think prison is?”



What We've Been Working On So Far

- Interviewed children (who didn't know any incarcerated people) & adults
- Providing internal explanation ("bad person") led to **worst** perceptions of incarcerated individuals
- Providing structural explanation (poverty) led to **least bad** perceptions
- Tentative recommendations at this point:
Avoid internal explanations

Current Project

- Including the voices of children whose parents are incarcerated
- Goals:
 - Learn about experiences of families where a parent is incarcerated
 - Bring knowledge back to communities
- Interviews include questions about:
 - The children themselves (e.g., their feelings)
 - Their parent (e.g., “tell me about your parent, what is he/she like?”)
 - Other people (e.g., why a character is in prison)

That Sounds Nice, How Do You Do That?

- One-time 15-20 minute interview
- Conducted by myself or member of my staff
- With 6- to 11-year-old children whose parent is currently incarcerated
- At Columbia
- Families receive a \$20 gift card



And Then What?

- Talking with more children
- Analyzing the data
- [Time passes while we do these things]
- Sharing **aggregated** results
 - E.g., “participants included 50 children. . .” NOT “participants included DeSean Smith and Barbara Jones. . .”
 - Discussions in communities
 - Lab newsletter
 - Academic publications

For More Information...

- Take a flyer
- In fact, please feel free to take a bunch of flyers & give them to families who might want to participate
- My contact info (also on flyer):
Larisa Heiphetz
Department of Psychology
Columbia University
lah2201@columbia.edu
212-854-1348
columbiasamclab.weebly.com

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SOCIAL AND MORAL COGNITION LAB



We're interested in your experiences

We are hoping to learn more about the lives of children whose parent is in prison or jail.

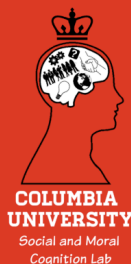
Over the last few years many incarcerated individuals and their family members have told us that they wish the general public had more awareness of what their lives are like.

We are trying to contribute by asking kids about their experiences.

What BENEFIT is there to participating? Families whose child participates will receive a \$20 gift card.

What does it INVOLVE if I choose to have my child participate? We are currently interviewing 6- to 11-year-old children. Trained researchers will talk with children for 15-20 minutes. We will ask children about themselves, their incarcerated parent, and other people (such as fictional characters).

WHERE and WHEN does this happen? We conduct interviews at Columbia University and at certain other locations throughout the city. Many interview times are available, including evening and weekend hours. To participate, please get in touch with Dr. Heiphetz (contact info below).



For questions or more information contact Dr. Larisa Heiphetz:

Phone: (212) 854-1348

Email: lah2201@columbia.edu

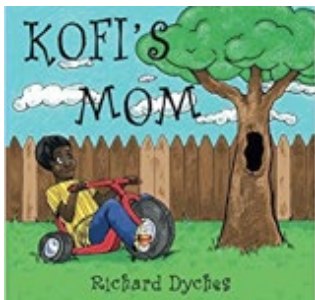
Mail: 1190 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10027



These books about children of incarcerated parents act as a resource for parents, caregivers, providers, and policy makers about the diverse needs and experiences of children of incarcerated parents. Making books available in spaces children and families can access, such as classrooms, libraries, and offices can convey to children with incarcerated parents they are not alone and signal that you or your organization are supportive of families affected by incarceration. **We recommend reviewing a book to ensure it is appropriate for your needs.** Books are listed according to recommended audience age.

Information herein was obtained from online reviews and book sellers; prices are estimates.

AGES 3-8



KOFI'S MOM, Richard Dyches

Ages : Young Children (3-5)

Price : \$7.95

Kofi's Mom is a story about Kofi whose mother is sent to prison. It explores his feelings of loss and confusion. Through friends at school, Kofi begins to talk about his mom and look forward to her return.

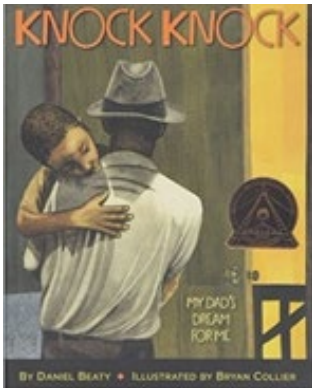


WHAT IS JAIL, MOMMY? & MAMI, QUE ES UNA CARCEL?, Jackie Stanglin

Ages : Young Children (3-8)

Price : \$14.50

When the truth is withheld from children they tend to blame themselves for others mistakes and short-comings. It is incumbent on each of us to provide age-appropriate facts to young inquiring minds. What Is Jail, Mommy? not only explains why the parent is incarcerated but what his/ her life is like.



KNOCK, KNOCK: MY DAD'S DREAM FOR ME, Daniel Beaty

Ages: Young Children (5-8)

Price \$13.43

This powerful and inspiring book shows the love an absent parent can leave behind and the strength children find in themselves as they grow up and follow their dreams.



OUR MOMS, Q. Futrell

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$11.99

Meet Michael, Paul, Jennifer, and Anne! All children are different in many ways, but all have one thing in common, their moms are in prison. This book serves as a conversation starter for such a sensitive issue that impacts children in the US.

AGES 5-10

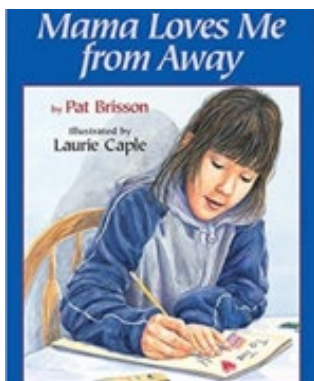


MY DADDY IS IN JAIL: STORY, DISCUSSION GUIDE, AND SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES K-5, Janet Bender

Ages: Young Children (5-10)

Price : \$14.95

With this book, helping professionals, and other caring adults, will find themselves better equipped to provide information and support to vulnerable children and their families.



MAMA LOVES ME FROM AWAY, Pat Brisson & Laurie Caple

Ages: Young Children (5-8)

Price \$8.72

The relationship between a mother and daughter is pushed to its limits when Mama is incarcerated.

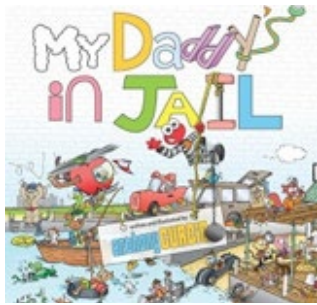


KENNEDY'S BIG VISIT, Daphne Brooks

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$12.95

Kennedy's Big Visit is a poignant children's story about a father and daughter bond that is unbreakable, despite their unique challenges.

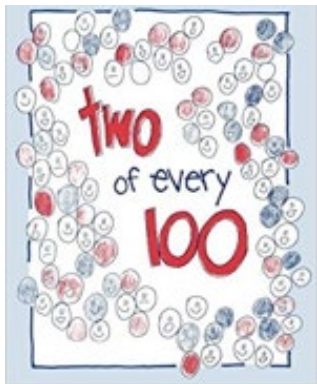


MY DADDY'S IN JAIL, Anthony Curcio

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

Price : \$9.48

There are nearly three million adults in the U.S. alone who are in prison or jail. Many of whom leave behind unanswered questions with their children, like: What is jail? Why did this happen? Is it my fault? Is my daddy or mommy bad? Do they love me? My Daddy's in Jail is a story of two bears who have a father in prison. The book was written by a formerly incarcerated parent.

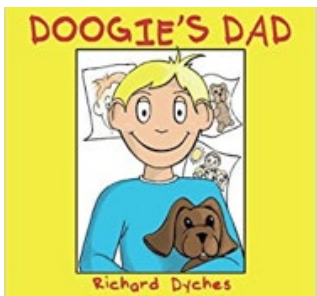


TWO OF EVERY 100, Richard Dyches

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

Price : \$9.95

In a group of 100 kids, could you pick out which two have a parent in prison? Of course you can't. Kids who have a parent in prison look just like any other kid! These children have special needs which they often have trouble verbalizing. The exercises in the workbook are designed to be conversation starters to facilitate children talking about their concerns and feelings.

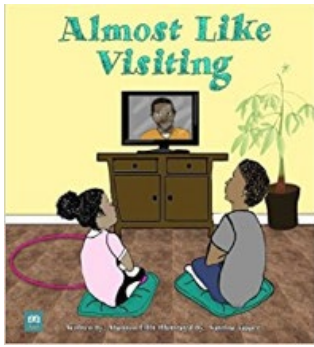


DOOGIE'S DAD, Richard Dyches

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$7.95

This story is about Doogie, a young boy, and his sister whose father is sent to prison. It explores their feelings of loss, fear, and frustration at not being told what's going on until their mom finally takes them to visit their dad in prison.

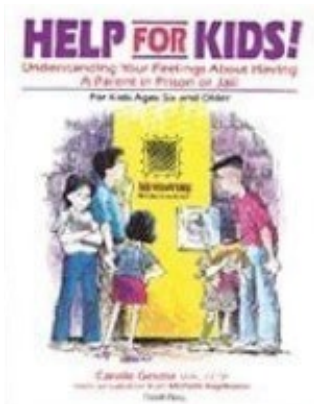


ALMOST LIKE VISITING, Shannon Ellis and Katrina Tapper

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

Price : \$10.00

Almost Like Visiting is about feelings and emotions children with an incarcerated parent may experience before, during, and after visiting their parent in prison. The book primarily focuses on video visiting and is a great resource for children with an incarcerated loved one and also serves to provide valuable information to their peers.



HELP FOR KIDS!: UNDERSTANDING YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT HAVING A PARENT IN PRISON OR JAIL, Carole Gesme, Michele Kodpfmann, and Lisa Schmoker

Ages : 5-10

Price : \$9.52

An activity workbook that explores the many mixed-up feelings that accompany the absence of a parent due to incarceration. It teaches peer pressure responses, provides tools for problem-solving, and helps students accept their feelings.

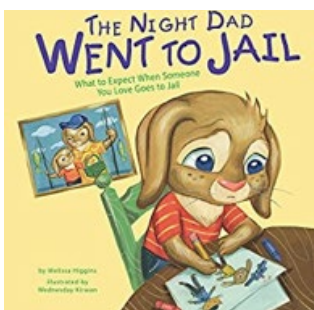


WAITING FOR DADDY, Jennie Lou Harriman and Kylie Ann Flye

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$7.99

This is a story about a young girl, who wants more than anything to be with her father, but cannot because he is in prison. She discovers many ways to cope with her loss through creative expression, the natural world, and play.

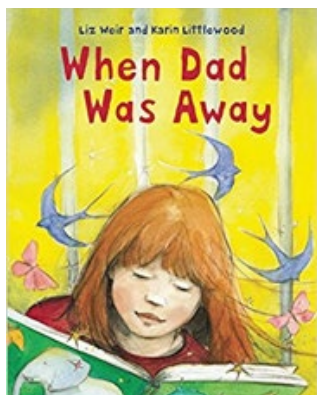


THE NIGHT DAD WENT TO JAIL, Melissa Higgins

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$5.00

When someone you love goes to jail, you might feel lost, scared, and even mad. What do you do? No matter who your loved one is, this story can help you through the tough times.

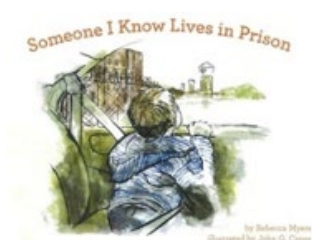


WHEN DAD WAS AWAY, Karin Littlewood and Liz Weir

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$16.09

When Mum tells Milly that Dad has been sent to prison, Milly feels angry and confused. She can't believe her dad won't be at home to read her stories and make her laugh. But soon Mum takes Milly and her brother Sam to visit Dad in prison, and a week later a special package arrives at home – a CD of Milly's favorite animal stories, read especially for her by Dad.

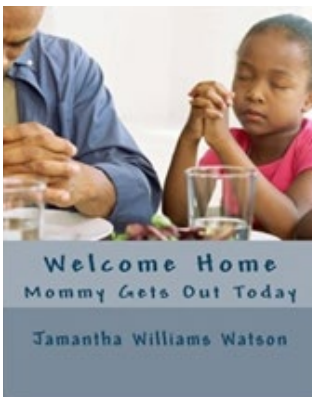


SOMEONE I KNOW LIVES IN PRISON, Rebecca Myers

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : N/A

A young person visits an incarcerated family member and explains the many rules and procedures of a prison visit. Watercolor pictures accompany the text with images of visitors, incarcerated people, and prison employees.

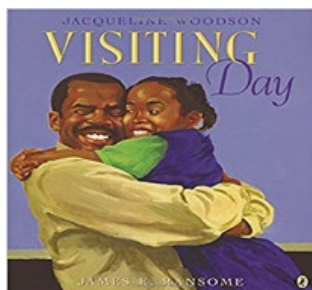


WELCOME HOME: MOMMY GETS OUT TODAY, Jamantha Williams Watson

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$9.00

When Bernice and her favorite cousin, Malaika meet Bernice's mother for the first time, the girls share similar emotions while learning about society, familial, and gender issues. Written primarily for students in grades 1st through 3rd, this story aids youth who are experiencing the return of a parent who has been incarcerated.



VISITING DAY, Jacqueline Woodson & James Ransome

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$5.00

In this moving picture book, a young girl and her grandmother prepare for a very special day—the one day a month they get to visit the girl's father in prison.

AGES 8-10+



WHERE'S DAD?, Richard Dyches and Korky Paul

Ages : Young Children (8-10)

Price : \$8.95

The story of an eight-year old dreamer of a boy, who imagines himself in a series of fantasy adventures as he tries to find out why the police have taken his dad away.



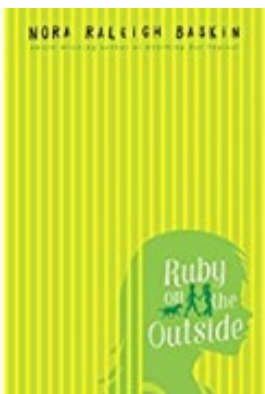
EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES: LIVING WITH MY DADDY IN JAIL, Madison Strempek

Ages : Young Children (10+)

Price : \$10.99

Take a heartwarming journey with 10-year-old author, Madison Strempek, as she candidly depicts her life experience of living with her father in jail. Through her eyes, you will live the heartbreak of her life changing news, discover how she survives with her embarrassing secret, and ultimately finds resolution and strength in understanding everyone makes mistakes.

AGES 11+

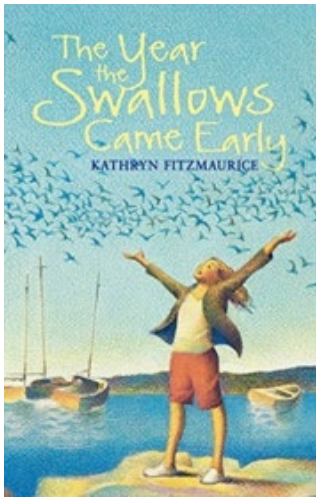


RUBY ON THE OUTSIDE, Nora Raleigh Baskin

Ages: Older Children (11+)

Price \$7.99

In this novel that sensitively addresses a subject too often overlooked, eleven-year-old Ruby Danes is about to start middle school and only her aunt knows her deepest, darkest, most secret secret: her mother is in prison.

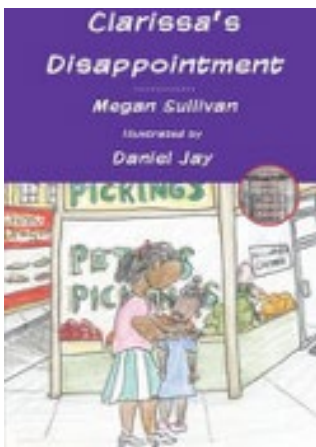


THE YEAR THE SWALLOWS CAME EARLY, Kathryn Fitzmaurice

Ages : Older Children (11+)

Price : \$6.99

The year Eleanor ‘Groovy’ Robinson turns eleven—suddenly, her father is in jail, her best friend’s long-absent mother reappears, and the swallows that make their annual migration to her hometown arrive surprisingly early. Groovy learns about the importance of forgiveness, understands the complex stories of the people around her, and realizes that even an earthquake can’t get in the way of a family that needs to come together.

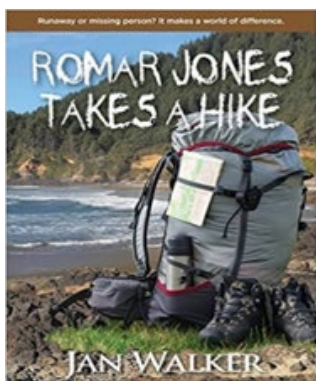


CLARISSA'S DISAPPOINTMENT, Megan Sullivan

Ages : Young Children (5-12) & Parents

Price : \$14.00

Two books in one, Clarissa’s Disappointment combines a moving children’s story of Clarissa waiting for her father to come home from prison with resources to assist the families, teachers and counselors of children of incarcerated parents.



ROMAR JONES TAKES A HIKE, Jan Walker

Ages: Older Children (11+)

Price : \$14.61

When his 9th grade language arts teacher tells him to pay attention to the poetry assignment or take a hike, Romar opts for the hike and embarks on a journey to find his mother. He figures that shouldn’t be too hard. She’s in prison in Washington.

“WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?”



TO ME?”

Every night, approximately three million children go to bed with a parent in prison or jail. Here are their thoughts and stories.



by HOWARD ZEHK and LORRAINE STUTZMAN AMSTUTZ
portraits by HOWARD ZEHK

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?, Howard Zehr

Ages : Older Kids

Price : \$8.00

This book brings together photographic portraits of 30 children whose parents are incarcerated, along with their thoughts and reflections, in their own words. As Taylor says, “I want other kids to know that, even though your parents are locked up, they’re not bad people.”

FACT SHEET



New York Initiative for
Children of Incarcerated Parents
A special project of Osborne's Policy Center

SUPPORT PROXIMITY

Proximity matters. Distance and the burdensome cost of visiting remote prisons make it difficult for children to consistently visit their incarcerated parents, if at all.¹ Visiting is associated with improved well-being for children and incarcerated parents, lower recidivism rates, and successful reentry and family reunification. Yet, the majority of incarcerated individuals in New York prisons are over 100 miles away from their families in facilities that are inaccessible by public transportation.² **Incorporating proximity into the prison assignment determination is a win for children, parents, correctional environments, and public safety.**

Visiting Can Support Children's Wellbeing

On any given day, more than 105,000 children in New York have an incarcerated parent, which is recognized as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) that increases children's risk for developing negative long-term health and mental health outcomes. Without support, children with incarcerated parents are more likely to experience poverty, instability, homelessness, learning disabilities, and some may engage in behaviors that lead to justice-involvement. Visiting can mitigate many of these risks and supports children in the following ways:

- Decreases emotional distress and problem behaviors.
- Allows for important conversations that can reduce a child's feelings of guilt, responsibility, and concern for their parents, and provides a forum for children to process the trauma surrounding the separation.
- Improves relations between parents and children upon a parent's return home.

Visiting Lowers Recidivism and Supports Rehabilitation

Visiting supports the rehabilitation of parents who are incarcerated and promotes positive behavior during a period of incarceration.³ Increasing success upon reentry benefits the communities to which parents return and supports their children's wellbeing and future outcomes. Visiting is associated with the following post-release outcomes:

- *Lower recidivism rates.* In one study, incarcerated persons who received visits were 13% less likely to commit a felony and 25% less likely to return to prison due to a parole violation.⁴
- *Supports successful re-entry.* Fathers who received visits are more likely to obtain employment and have stronger attachments to their children upon release.⁵

Proximity Bills for Parents in New York State Prisons

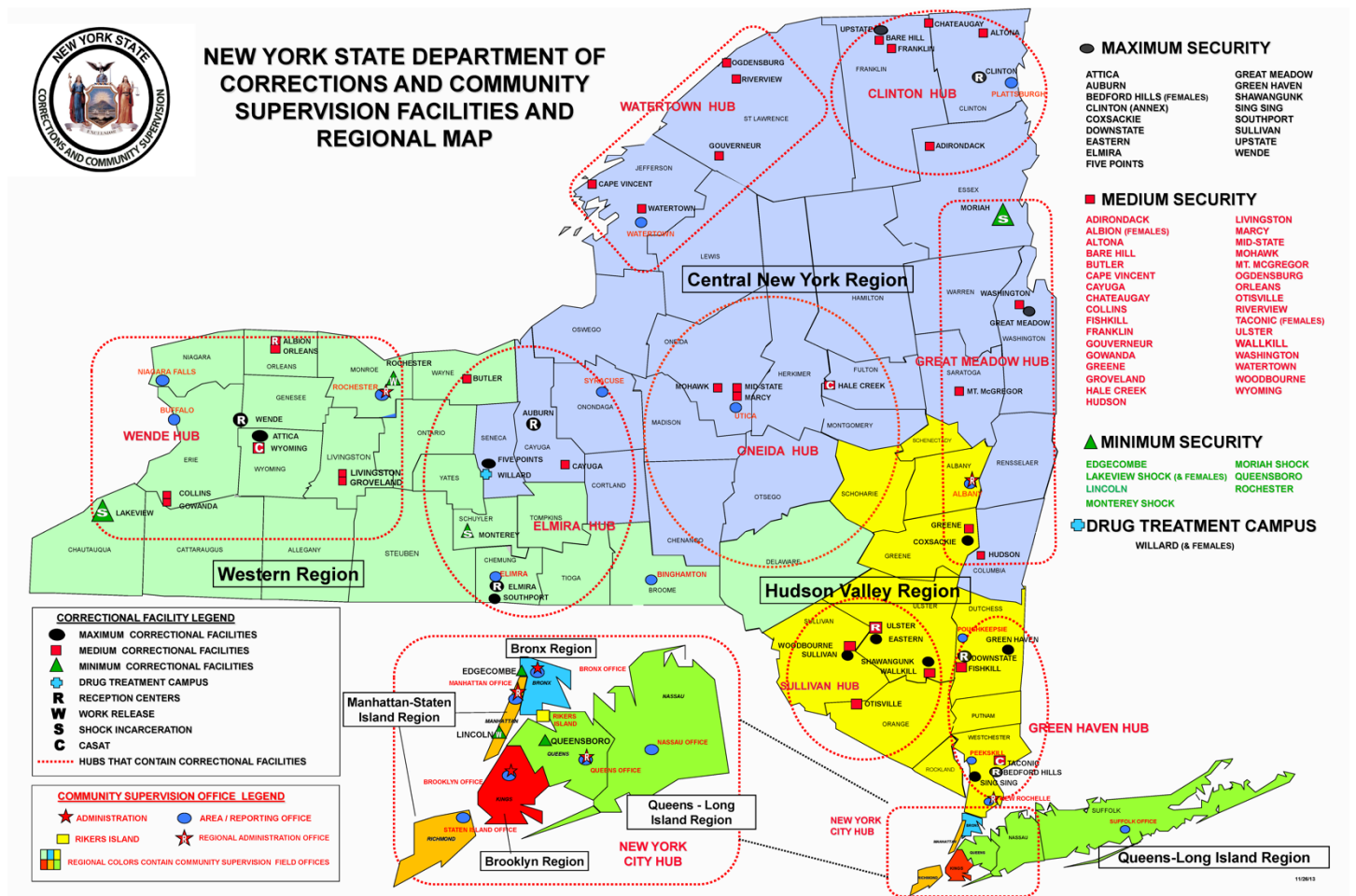
- **S3727/A1272** (Montgomery/Rozic) Requires DOCCS to place incarcerated parents at facilities of their designated security level that are closest to their children.
- **S1096/A6643A** (Rivera/Crespo) Three-year Proximity Pilot placing 100 incarcerated parents at the facility of their designated security level that is closest to their children.
- **S5701A/A7527** (Hamilton/Crespo) Three-year Proximity Pilot for 100-200 incarcerated mothers.



www.osborneny.org/susu
NYInitiative@osborneny.org
[@OsborneNY](https://twitter.com/OsborneNY)
[/NYCIP](https://www.facebook.com/NYCIP)

Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights #5
"I have the right to speak with, see, and touch my parent."

There are 54 prisons in New York State



New York has three women’s prisons and two of these are medium security facilities: Albion Correctional is in the Western Region in Orleans County near Rochester and Taconic Correctional is in the Hudson Valley Region in Westchester County near NYC. New York has 51 prisons for men.

¹ New Jersey, Florida, California, and Hawaii have laws or regulations that require Corrections to consider proximity to family.
² 58% of incarcerated individuals from the NYC metropolitan area are placed in prisons over 200 miles from their homes and 70% of incarcerated individuals from rural areas are placed in prisons over 100 miles from their homes. DiZerega, M., Asif Uddin, F, & Tobias, L. (2012). *New York State prison visiting bus: A public safety resource that benefits children and families*. New York, New York: Vera Institute of Justice.
³ Mohr, G. C. *An Overview of Research Findings in the Visitation, Offender Behavior Connection*. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 2012.
⁴ Duwe, G. & Clark, V. (2013). *Blessed Be the Social Tie That Binds: The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism*. Criminal Justice Policy Review.
⁵ Visher et al. (2004). *Prisoners' Experiences Returning Home*. Washington DC: Urban Institute; LaVigne et al. (2005). *Examining the effect of incarceration and in-prison family contact on prisoners' family relationships*. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 21. 314 – 35.

NYC Resources for Children of Incarcerated Parents and Their Families

The Osborne Association

718-637-6560

- ▶ Supportive services for children, families, and incarcerated and formerly incarcerated parents
- ▶ Youth leadership and advocacy skills programs
- ▶ Televisiting: video visiting with incarcerated parents in select NYS prisons and Rikers
- ▶ **Stronger Together** handbooks focus on the experiences and needs of children of incarcerated parents

Women's Prison Association

646-292-7740

- ▶ Reentry programs and preventive services for women and their children

Big Brothers Big Sisters: Children of Promise

212-686-2042, ext.162

- ▶ Mentoring for children of incarcerated parents, ages 7-17

Advocates for Children

866-427-6033

- ▶ Provides information for parents whose children attend NYC public school, assistance with special education, school discipline, and transfers.

In Arms Reach

212-650-5894

- ▶ Mentoring, tutoring, afterschool, and visiting assistance

Hour Children

718-433-4724

- ▶ Parenting Center, nursery, advocacy and visiting programs at Bedford Hills, Taconic and Riker's Island Correctional Facilities
- ▶ Reentry case management, and supportive housing for women and their children
- ▶ Supportive services, day-care, after-school and mentoring programs for children
- ▶ Thrift shops (clothing, toys, household goods)
- ▶ Food pantry

NYC ACS: Children of Incarcerated Parents Program (CHIPP)

212-487-9698

- ▶ Visiting assistance for ACS involved families and case planners
- ▶ Collect call hotline for incarcerated parents, 212-341-3322

Children of Promise

718-483-9290

- ▶ After school programs and summer camp
- ▶ Licensed adolescent mental health clinic

The NY Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents (NYCIP) is a special project of the Osborne Center for Justice Policy and Practice.

New York State and National Resources

NY State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS Prisons)

- ▶ **Family Handbook:** www.doccs.ny.gov/FamilyGuide/FamilyHandbook.html
- ▶ **Prison visiting policies:** www.doccs.ny.gov/Visitation/DOCCS_Visitation_By_facility.pdf

Kinship Navigator: Information, referral, and advocacy program for kinship caregivers

- ▶ 1-877-454-6463 or www.nysnavigator.org

NY Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS): Materials pertaining to child welfare involved incarcerated parents

- ▶ (keyword=incarcerated). ocfs.ny.gov/main/documents/

NY State Council on Children and Families:

Resources and information

- ▶ <http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/coordinating-council-children-incarcerated-parents-cc-cwip/>

NY Courts: Options that help parents plan for their children's care while incarcerated

- ▶ www.courts.state.ny.us/ip/justiceforchildren/incarceratedparents.shtml

Echoes of Incarceration: Youth produced short films about children of incarcerated parents

- ▶ www.echoesofincarceration.org

Sesame Street: Videos, books, and tips to help children understand parental incarceration

- ▶ www.sesameworkshop.org/incarceration

National Resource Center for Children and Families of the Incarcerated at Rutgers University

- ▶ <https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu>

Youth.Gov: Federal website of national resources

- ▶ <http://youth.gov/>

How to Locate an Incarcerated Parent

NYC Department of Correction (DOC): Rikers Island jails and NYC holding facilities

- ▶ a073-ils-web.nyc.gov/inmatelookup/pages/common/find.jsf

NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS): NY State Prisons

- ▶ nysdoccslookup.doccs.ny.gov/ or 518-457-8126

Federal Bureau of Prisons

- ▶ www.bop.gov/inmate_locator/index.jsp

Centralized Inmate Locator: Includes most state departments of correction

- ▶ www.theinmatelocator.com/
- ▶ You will need to know the parent's name (or alias) and birth date or birth year.

To learn more or to get involved, call us at 718-637-6560 or visit www.osborneny.org

Creating Safer Spaces for Children of Incarcerated Parents

- ▶ More than 10 million children in the U.S. have experienced their parent's incarceration or their parent being under correctional supervision. About 1 in 28 children have an incarcerated parent, making it likely you will come in contact with children of incarcerated parents. But, you may never know it because these children often remain invisible due to the stigma associated with incarceration. These guiding tips will help you create a safer space where children and families feel comfortable disclosing and expressing their emotions without feeling judged, blamed, or labeled.

BE A ROLE MODEL OF ACCEPTANCE

- ▶ Assess your values and beliefs about the incarcerated and their families
- ▶ Examine how your values and beliefs affect your approaches and responses

BE AN ACTIVE NONJUDGMENTAL LISTENER

- ▶ Let children lead the conversation and help them talk about their feelings by asking open-ended questions
- ▶ Acknowledge how hard it is to be separated from a parent
- ▶ Don't ask a question just because you are curious

USE INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

- ▶ Use nonjudgmental language, such as a parent who is incarcerated or formerly incarcerated person
- ▶ Avoid *inmate*, *offender*, *convict*, *prisoner*, and *criminal* to describe a young person's parent

RESPECT PRIVACY

- ▶ Let children know what they share is confidential and share the limits of that confidentiality
- ▶ If necessary to share information, let the child know and get permission when possible

SIGNAL SAFE SPACES

- ▶ Post the *Children of Incarcerated Parents' Bill of Rights* in your office or classroom
- ▶ Include children's books about parental incarceration in common areas, school libraries, classrooms, and offices

**SEE THEM
SUPPORT THEM**

- ▶ Ask to Give: “If incarceration is an issue that affects your family, please let us know, and we will give you supportive resources.”
- ▶ Listen for common euphemisms: “her mother is away at college,” or “her father is working upstate”

**SUPPORT
FAMILY
CONNECTIONS**

- ▶ Support parent-child relationships, which are usually in children’s best interest
- ▶ Support visits, phone contact, and letter writing

**CONNECT TO
AFTER-SCHOOL
SUPPORTS**

- ▶ Identify peer groups, counseling, and supportive programs where children can discuss feelings, ask questions, and share experiences without fear of judgment
- ▶ Refer to programs dedicated to supporting children of incarcerated parents and families of the incarcerated

**USE A TRAUMA-
INFORMED LENS**

- ▶ Understand children experience a parent’s incarceration as an ambiguous and traumatic loss
- ▶ Learn how the criminal justice system works and how incarceration affects children and families

**ORGANIZE
LEARNING
EVENTS**

- ▶ Invite youth and others directly affected by incarceration to speak at your organization or school
- ▶ Connect with organizations that work with families impacted by incarceration and learn about their programs

The NY Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents (NYCIP) is a special project of the Osborne Center for Justice Across Generations.

- ▶ Raising awareness, promoting policy and practice change, and building partnerships to ensure children’s rights are upheld, important relationships maintained, and their potential nurtured during their parent’s involvement in the criminal justice system. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/NYInitiative>.
- ▶ The Children of Incarcerated Parents: *A Bill of Rights* was developed by the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership in 2005: www.sfcipp.org.
- ▶ For more information about person-first, inclusive language, go to <http://bit.ly/WEAREPEOPLE>.

FORM 1.
PARENTAL APPOINTMENT OF
YOUR CHILD'S CAREGIVER*
FOR 30 DAYS OR LESS

Filled Out by Parent
I, *(your name)* _____

parent of *(your child's name)* _____

choose *(caregiver's name)* _____

who lives at *(caregiver's address)* _____

to be the caregiver and the person able
to make education and healthcare
decisions, including consent for routine
and emergency medical treatment, for
my child. This gives the caregiver full
authority for *(number from 1 to 30)* _____
_____ days that starts on the date
below and ends earlier if I say so.

Sign Here: _____

Date: _____

*Do a separate form for each child.
The caregiver can show this form to education and
healthcare providers. The education and healthcare
providers can make copies of this form.

BE SURE
YOUR CHILD
IS CARED FOR
AND SAFE

IF YOU ARE
ARRESTED,
CALL SOMEONE
IMMEDIATELY!

IF YOU ARE
SENT TO JAIL
OR PRISON,
MAKE PLANS AND
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
YOUR CHILD!

APPOINT A CAREGIVER
TALK TO A LAWYER
ABOUT YOUR PLANS
FOR YOUR CHILD

BE SURE YOUR CHILD IS CARED FOR AND SAFE

TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS — CALL SOMEONE!

Make arrangements for today and for as long as you will be unable to care for your child. You may need to ask one person to care for your child immediately and another person to provide longer-term care.

Appoint a Caregiver Immediately

If you are your child's only caregiver, ask your child's other parent, a relative or friend to care for your child and put it in writing. This gives that person the legal ability to make education and medical decisions for your child. There are two forms included in this flyer that you can use to appoint a temporary caregiver. The two forms are for different time periods and have different requirements. Always do a separate form for each of your children. The caregiver can show the completed form to your child's education and healthcare providers and they can make copies of the form.

Form 1. Parental Appointment of Your Child's Caregiver for 30 Days or Less

- Complete this form immediately.
- It is easy for you to fill in and give to the caregiver.

Form 2. Parental Appointment of Your Child's Caregiver for 6 Months or Less

- Complete this form as soon as possible and before the 30 day arrangement ends.
- This form must be signed in front of a notary public by you and the caregiver. You can have it notarized together or separately. If done separately, you, the parent, must have it notarized first.
- You can renew this arrangement. Complete and notarize new forms for each of your children before the 6 month period is over.

TALK TO A LAWYER ABOUT YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR CHILD.
HERE ARE SOME OPTIONS

File a Custody or Guardianship Petition

If your child's other parent or another suitable person can care for your child, he or she can file a petition in Family Court and you consent to a change in custody or to the appointment of the guardian at a hearing. This gives that person the responsibility for the care and decision-making for your child. You can ask for a visiting plan for you and your child.

Modify a Custody and Visitation Order

If your child's other parent can care for your child and you have sole custody of your child, your child's other parent can file a petition in Family Court to modify the order that gave you custody. You consent to a change in custody at a hearing that gives your child's other parent the responsibility for the care and decision-making for your child. You can ask for a visiting plan for you and your child.

Voluntary Placement in Foster Care

If your child's other parent is not able to care for your child and you do not have another suitable person who can care for your child, you can call 211 (available in most counties) or contact your local county department of social services (Administration for Children Services in New York City) preventive services department directly and ask to place your child in foster care. If the department agrees, you must sign a voluntary placement agreement that allows your child to be placed in temporary foster care. You can ask for a visiting plan for you and your child.

FORM 2. PARENTAL APPOINTMENT OF YOUR CHILD'S CAREGIVER FOR 6 MONTHS OR LESS

Filled Out by Parent (Do a separate form for each child)

I, *(your name)* _____, parent of *(your child's name)* _____, date of birth *(your child's date of birth)* _____, choose *(caregiver's name)* _____ to be the caregiver and the person able to make education and healthcare decisions, including consent for routine and emergency medical treatment, for my child. This gives the caregiver full authority for my child's education and health decisions from *(start date)* _____ to *(end date)* _____ unless I say so otherwise. The caregiver's phone number is _____. The caregiver's address is _____.

When I was taken into custody, my home address was _____. I expect to be in the following location *(name of jail/prison)* _____ and cannot be contacted directly by phone. My department identification number or book and case number is *(your number or leave blank if unknown)* _____.

There is no court order in effect that stops me from making this appointment.

Sign Here: _____ Date: _____

Filled Out by Notary

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF _____ ss.: _____

On the _____ day of _____, 20____, before me personally came _____, known to me to be the person described in and who signed the within document, and to me such person duly acknowledged that he/she executed same.

Notary Public _____

Filled Out by Caregiver

I, *(your name)* _____, consent to assume the responsibilities and duties of an appointed caregiver (person in a parental relation) to this child.

Sign Here: _____ Date: _____

Filled Out by Notary

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF _____ ss.: _____

On the _____ day of _____, 20____, before me personally came _____, known to me to be the person described in and who signed the within document, and to me such person duly acknowledged that he/she executed same.

Notary Public _____

TELL YOUR CHILD'S CAREGIVER ABOUT THESE PLACES WHERE YOU, YOUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS CAN GET HELP

LIFT

Website: www.LIFTonline.org

Statewide Hotline: 212-343-1122 (accepts collect calls from parents in jail or prison)

Email via web: www.LIFT hotline.org

Range of services include:

- Legal information about Family Court and family law
- Referrals to social and legal services
- Receive intensive legal and social work services at the Family Legal Center
- Multilingual Legal Resource Guides

NYS Kinship Navigator

Website: www.nysnavigator.org

Toll-free Phone: 877-454-6463

Email: navigator@nysnavigator.org

Range of services include:

- Learn about county-specific help
- Talk to a Kinship Specialist
- Access legal fact sheets
- Referrals to agencies and professionals

The Osborne Association

Website: www.osborneny.org

Family Resource Center: 800-344-3314

Phone: 718-637-6560

Email: info@osborneny.org

Range of services include:

- Court advocacy, drug treatment, employment and family services
- Visiting assistance and counseling

Prison Families of New York, Inc.

Website: www.prisonfamiliesofnewyork.org

Phone: 518-453-6659

Range of services include:

- Provides support groups, visiting policy, help with prison problems

Women's Prison Association

Website: www.wpaonline.org

Phone: 646-336-6100

Range of services include:

- Get direct assistance for criminal justice involved women

ALSO TELL YOUR CHILD'S CAREGIVER ABOUT THESE RESOURCES

Financial Help for Your Child

Your child's caregiver may be able to apply for Temporary Assistance (often called child-only grants) that provides monthly cash assistance to be used for the care of your child. This assistance is based on the income and resources of your child, not the income of the non-parent caregivers. Caregivers may also be able to apply for Food Stamps, Medicaid, child care assistance or other services for your child. For more information and an application package, the caregiver can call 211 (available in most counties) or visit the local department of social services (HRA in New York City).

Handbook for Caregivers

The New York State Handbook for Relatives Raising Children, *Having a Voice and a Choice*, discusses the various options available to caregivers. Online at www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5080.pdf.

**This Flyer should not take the place of speaking with a lawyer about any of these issues.
All individuals involved with the Family Court or Criminal Court
are encouraged to speak with a lawyer.**

Prepared by: NYS Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children Website: www.nycourts.gov/justiceforchildren

Working to improve the lives and life chances of children involved with New York courts.



See Us,
Support Us



#WordsMatter

Think of how a child might feel when their parent is called a “criminal.” To children they are moms and dads first and forever. **#WordsMatter** can signal to a child struggling with their parent’s incarceration that you are a safe space. Creating safe spaces for children of incarcerated parents can reduce stigma and negative effects of separation from a parent. Join us in using thoughtful language when speaking of and with people with criminal justice involvement and their families. **Together we can change the narrative.**



www.osborneny.org



New York Initiative for
Children of Incarcerated Parents

The Osborne
Association



#WordsMatter

“People talk about our parents in ways we wouldn’t even talk about them. They do not stop being people, or parents, when they go to prison or jail, and neither should we stop treating them as such.”

– Melissa Tanis, daughter of an incarcerated parent

Instead of “inmates” or “offenders” say...

Parent

People who are incarcerated

People who have been in conflict with the law

Instead of “felons” or “ex-cons” say...

Formerly Incarcerated Person

Returning Citizen

People with prior criminal justice involvement

Join us in changing the narrative—by listening to the children who are directly affected, celebrating their resilience, and using humanizing language when referring to people who are incarcerated.

Find more resources at: www.osborneny.org/susu

