

Homeward Bound



Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2012

SAFE LOCATION PROGRAM...

NEED A MEAL?

NEED TIME TO THINK?

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

NEED A PLACE TO STAY OVERNIGHT?

*Louisville only



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## TIPS FOR INCARCERATED PARENTS

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This information is provided by the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Division of Programs and Community Services, Office of Transitional Services. The title "What About Me?" is a guide for discussing your incarceration with your children.

Is prison visitation good for the child of an offender? Is it good for the parent in prison? Is it good for the family? There is no one right answer for every situation or family. But there are many families and children that can benefit from maintaining family ties through the crises of incarceration.

CAN CONTACT WITH A PARENT IN PRISON BENEFIT CHILDREN?

Each family situation is different. The potential benefit to children depends greatly on how much support they receive. There are many adults who are important in the lives of children of offenders. Children can benefit when adults help with letter writing and phone calls. They can also benefit when these adults participate in preparing for and conducting visits. There are several ways children can benefit from visits to their parents in prison.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO CHILDREN:

1. CORRECTING FRIGHTENING IMAGES

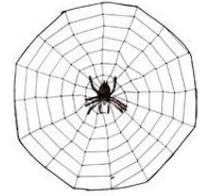
What the child imagines about the incarcerated parent's condition and circumstances is likely to be much worse and more frightening than the reality. As depressing as a prison visiting room may be, it is far better than what many children imagine.

2. TALKING FACE TO FACE

Parents in prison can talk with their children about their crime and life behind bars in ways that can decrease the child's

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guilt and feelings of responsibility. Parents in prison can help their children feel worthy and lovable.

3. LEARNING YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Seeing other children and families at prison visits helps families know their situation is not unique. There are people who understand.

4. PREPARING FOR RELEASE

Maintaining contact through visits, phone and mail is also important to prepare the incarcerated parent to be reunited with the family upon release. Without contact, the child may experience the parent's return as an intrusion. The child may be confused when the newly released parent brings a change in parenting styles and rules to an established routine in the family. This can be true whether or not the parent will live with the child.

5. PREVENTING TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

For children placed in foster care because of parental incarceration, visits are important to avoid permanent placement outside of the natural home. These visits assure children that their parents have not voluntarily abandoned them to strangers. In the lives of foster children, ongoing visiting creates continuity. Also, courts may be less inclined to terminate the rights of a parent who, while incarcerated, worked to provide parental support.

6. HEALING GRIEF AND LOSS

The pain of separation can overwhelm children in foster care and other children of offenders. Maintaining the relationship between the child and the parent in prison is important to the child's adjustment and healing.

CAN CONTACT WITH FAMILY MEMBERS BEHIND BARS BENEFIT FAMILIES?

Families can benefit from bridging the gap between jail and community. Families are complex systems. The absence of a part of the system has a powerful impact on its functioning. Family members in prison can be a vibrant part of the family if communication exists.

While prison limits the activities that a family member can perform, an offender can still fill an important role in family life as mother, father, spouse, partner, or sibling. But families can only benefit from their relationship with an incarcerated member when and if they stay in communication. There are many reasons for families separated by arrest and imprisonment to keep in touch. There are also many reasons that doing so is difficult.

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CAN CONTACT WITH FAMILIES BENEFIT OFFENDERS?

The family is probably this country's most valuable weapon in fighting crime. Offenders who receive visitors, maintain family ties, and are released to a stable home environment are more likely to succeed in leading productive, crime-free lives.

Prison inmates clearly benefit from family efforts to stay in touch. Families can provide an incentive for prisoners to grow, learn and change. Families can help offenders stay in touch with what's going on in the world, easing their transition back into society. Some parole authorities see strong family ties as an indicator that an offender is better prepared for release.

Many parents in prison can contribute positively to a child's upbringing. Offenders who have failed as citizens can succeed as parents. Prison can be an opportunity to become a better, more caring, concerned and informed parent.

Prison may not be the best place to improve one's parenting skills, but it has been done. Around the country, there is growing interest in starting and expanding programs to help offenders learn the skills of parenting.

If you have information you would like to see provided in your newsletter, please contact any of our staff:

Homeward Bound Contact Information:

Brigid Adams	brigid.adams@ky.gov
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Melissa Moore	melissaj.moore@ky.gov
Tanya Stevens	tanyar.stevens@ky.gov

**Or write to us at 275 East Main Street, P. O. Box 2400,
Frankfort, KY 40602**

Reentry Group	Meeting Schedule	Location
Northeast Kentucky Reentry Council	1 st Wednesday of each month 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST	First Christian Church 18 East Third Street Maysville, KY
Green River Reentry Council	3 rd Wednesday of each month 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. CST	Owensboro Regional Recovery 4301 Veach Road Owensboro, KY
Western Kentucky Reentry Council	3 rd Thursday of each month 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST	Centerpoint, Kentucky Recovery Center 530 County Park Rd Paducah, KY
Southeast Kentucky Reentry Task Force	3 rd Tuesday of each month 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST	Cumberland Valley Area Development District342 Old Whitley Road London, KY ** March, June, and September we meet at Adanta Administration Building 259 Parkers Mill Road, Somerset, KY 42501
Southern Kentucky Reentry Council	3 rd Wednesday of each month 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CST	Bowling Green FOP Lodge 150 Corvette Drive Bowling Green, KY
Central Kentucky Reentry Council	4 th Tuesday of each month 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EST	Probation & Parole Office Conference Room 207 South Mulberry Street Elizabethtown, KY 42701
Louisville Metro Reentry Task Force	4 th Wednesday of each month 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST	St. Stephen's Family Life Center 1508 W. Kentucky Street Louisville, KY
Bluegrass Reentry Council	4 th Thursday of each month 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST	National College 2376 Sir Barton Way Lexington, KY
Eastern Kentucky Reentry Council	4 th Wednesday of each month 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST	TBD
Northern Kentucky Reentry Team	4 th Wednesday of each month 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST	Catholic Charities 3629 Church Street Covington, KY
FIVCO Reentry Council	1 st Thursday of each month 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST	The Neighborhood 2516 Carter Avenue Ashland, Kentucky 41101

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION:

When I am released from prison on parole, how will I know where to go and what I'm supposed to do?

ANSWER:

Your institutional Reentry Coordinator will meet with you before you are released. He/she will provide you with specific instructions on who your Parole Officer is, where they are located, a phone number for the P&P office and when you are to report to your officer. Your Reentry Coordinator will also make sure you have the proper paperwork for release. This will include notice of discharge, parole certificate, reporting instructions, letter of identification, your birth certificate if you had requested one while you were incarcerated, resources and a reentry hotline card.

QUESTION:

How do I get my birth certificate if I have no money?

ANSWER:

If this is early in your incarceration period, plan ahead and begin saving your money. The fee is \$10 for each certified copy. If it is late in your incarceration period and you are getting ready to be released, check with your family members to see if they can help with the expense and if all else fails, see your Reentry Coordinator.

This process holds true for those born outside of the Commonwealth of Kentucky as well. There is a list of all vital statistics offices in the library of your facility. Most states require that your signature be notarized if you are requesting a copy of your birth certificate by mail. Notaries are available in all Kentucky correctional facilities. In addition, some states require more than \$10 for a certified birth certificate copy. Please see your Reentry Coordinator or Case Worker for assistance.



Need a meal?

Need time to think?

Need someone to talk to?

Need a place to stay overnight?

If you're on supervision and answered "yes" to one or all of these questions the Kentucky Department of Corrections and Dismas Charities can help. Under the *Safe Location* Program, free temporary shelter, someone to talk to, a free nutritious meal and quiet is only a short distance away. We're here for you 24/7.

MALES IN NEED REPORT TO DISMAS CHARITIES ST. PATRICK, 1301 West Market Street

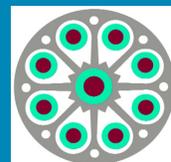
FEMALES IN NEED REPORT TO DISMAS CHARITIES LOUISVILLE, 124 W. Oak.

*Louisville only

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Dismas Charities, Inc.



SUPERVISED OFFENDERS EMERGENCY SERVICES

"SAFE LOCATION PROGRAM"

For those offenders leaving prison on supervised release and going home, home seems like the end to all their problems and issues. However, there may be issues at home that will impede their progress of becoming successful members of the community. Resentment, anger and the increase in family members all can add up to stress and issues. Most of the time, it is not a problem during the work day, others are at work, the kids at school and the offender is out looking for work. But what happens after business hours when a newly released offender has problems at home?

Dismas Charities, Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Corrections have partnered to address gaps in current supervision/management practices of the adult offender population. Currently, Kentucky releases approximately 18,000 offenders annually. Once released and if without stable employment, housing and support systems, offenders may succumb to the stress and pressures of daily life and re-offend. Even with this support, offenders may find themselves needing emergency services in those areas. In many cases, an offender may be able to remove him/herself from a volatile situation and retreat to a location that provides safety, security and the pro-social support of qualified staff. For example, if an offender is engaged in an argument with a family member, and the offender needs to seek time away from the situation, the Safe Location would be available and staffed 24 hours per day.

Dismas Charities, Inc. provides 24 hour/7 day per week response to offenders in need of a safe location and a trained staff with which the offender will have the ability to discuss issues. Dismas Charities provides trained staff or counselors to work with offenders any time of the day, and provide a balanced meal if an offender's stay crosses over meal times, and space to sleep if necessary. We offer services when other agencies are closed; we offer services by trained staff that knows the issues that the offender has been through. We offer empathy to their current situation. We are not there to judge, but to help. The why of what caused the offender to come to us is not important, what is important is how we can help them in this crisis and get them the assistance they need to overcome this bump in the road to success.

Dismas Charities, Inc's goal is to provide a safe and secure location in the offender's time of need, keeping him/her off the streets, away from the temptation of doing something they will regret, out of the way of harm and hopefully keep them from going back into the system.

We will work closely with the offender's officer in keeping the officer aware of the situation and the offender's location. This gives the Officer one less thing to deal with and the knowledge that the Offender is safe and secure for the evening or weekend.

This program applies to those offenders under the supervision of the KY Department of Corrections, Division of Probation & Parole in Jefferson County.

STOP THE SILENCE ABOUT SENSELESS VIOLENCE

FUNDED BY THE KENTUCKY FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN

Date: Monday, November 5, 2012
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Shawnee Arts & Cultural Center
607 South 37th Street
Louisville, KY



Many of us hope that we will never know the pain associated with losing a loved one or friend to senseless violence, but it seems like every day we hear about another senseless murder in the community. As we can only imagine the harm and pain that individual families endure; just imagine the feelings of hopelessness that senseless violence inflicts on the community, as a whole. This feeling of hopelessness increases when we remain isolated and do not talk about our individual and collective losses.

OUR GOALS FROM WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE

- 1. Utilize art as a therapeutic tool**
- 2. Honor and remember your loved one**
- 3. Explore ways to bring the issue of senseless violence to the forefront of public consciousness from a woman's perspective**
- 4. Uplift and empower one another by visualizing peace for individuals and the entire community.**



**Participant
Space is
limited...please
contact us by
October 29th, to
reserve your
space.**

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