

Kentucky Department of Corrections
Offender Newsletter

HOMeward BOUND



A
SECOND
CHANCE
TO
MAKE
A
FIRST
IMPRESSION



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MARION COUNTY DETENTION CENTER GRADUATES THEIR FIRST MORAL RECONATION THERAPY CLASS.



Marion County Detention Center has implemented the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) program, an evidence-based inmate program, which is offered to inmates within the community work program. MRT is a six month therapy course and is a premiere cognitive-behavioral program for criminal justice offenders. MRT truly facilitates change in its participants, addressing the cognitive issues that drive their criminal behavior. Pictured above is the first graduating class along with Jailer Barry Brady and MRT Facilitators Lou Gribbins and Garry Richerson.

November Parenting Tips

When A Parent Goes to Prison: Who would you tell? Who should you tell? What could you say?

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.

When a parent or family member goes to prison, often, the family's first reaction is to protect the children by not telling them the truth..or to tell them only part of the truth. Perhaps the parent in prison is afraid of what the children will think of him or her. Afraid they won't love and respect them anymore.

The reality is that children usually find out the truth anyway. They hear adults talking, or a friend may tell them or they simply figure things out for themselves. So, what is the best thing to do? While every family must decide for themselves, here are some key things to keep in mind.

A. Children need to trust the adults who take care of them. You build their trust when you tell the truth—even if it hurts. Besides, if they find out you lied about a loved one in prison, they'll be hurt twice as much...about the imprisonment and your deception. Also, if you lie about this, what else are you not telling the truth about?

B: Children are smart. While you may believe that you can explain a loved one's absence with a vague answer, (they are in the hospital, working for the state or away at school) children usually find out. Phone calls and letters declare when someone communicates from a correctional facility, or the children see the barbed wire when they visit, or their loved one never comes home—even if they beg or it's a holiday. These are just some of the clues that even the youngest of children can put together.



C. If children aren't given an explanation that makes sense—they will tell themselves something to fill the gap. That something may be worse than the truth. If you want them to come to you for information or comfort, you must demonstrate that the “door is open” for honest communication. Be open and patient when they approach you.

D. Children need to hear explanations they can understand. Keep in mind their age and experience. Keep it simple. It's not a one time discussion. Often once children have had an opportunity to think about things, they'll come back with other questions or feelings. Be open to talk about the crime, prison life and the safety of their parent or loved one...for most children, the number one priority is knowing that their parent or loved one is safe!

E. Provide children with guidance about what to tell people outside the family. Should they say, “you're separated” or “he's away” or “in prison”? Every situation is different - so help children prepare for questions, teasing or offers of support from others.

F. Holidays, Mother's Day, Father's Day and birthdays are especially difficult. Schools may do special projects. Be proactive. Talk to your children about what's coming up and ask them how they want to handle things. Provide guidance in advance.

G. Prepare your children about what to expect during visits, phone calls or letters. Children experience time differently than adults. Help them understand how long someone will be gone or when the next contact may be.

H. Separate how you feel about the imprisoned adult from what the child may feel or want. It's normal for children to want the adults in their lives to be good caregivers. Many children believe that once a parent comes home from prison they will be the mother or father they always wanted. Listen to their hopes and fears. Let them know what they may realistically expect, without bias or judgment.

I. If possible, include the imprisoned parent or loved one in the discussions. Discuss what you want to say in advance and practice with one another. Children feel better when the adult who is imprisoned says he or she is safe and cared for and that the child is not at fault for anything. Reassure them that even though prison is not a place where anyone wants to end up, the adult will be okay.

J. Finally, just because an adult does a bad thing doesn't necessarily mean he or she is a bad person. Separate the two. The incarcerated person made a mistake that he or she must be held accountable. Although walls may separate them, they still can love one another very much.



MOST
FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Do you have a list of employers that hire convicted felons?

ANSWER: Yes, Officers often compile lists of employers that are currently hiring and are open to working with individuals with criminal backgrounds. Each office has a designated employment contact officer that contacts community employers in an attempt to locate solid employment resources for clients. Additionally, there are multiple employment assistance programs in the community. Speak to your officer or institutional reentry coordinator about employment assistance training programs such as Goodwill's Reentry By Design.

QUESTION: I am on parole and have a family member who is incarcerated. Can I visit them?

ANSWER: As per policy, individuals on parole cannot visit an institution until a year after their release. At that time, based on the individual's performance on supervision, the parole officer may grant permission for the individual to visit the facility. The institutional authorities must also approve the visit.

QUESTION: I was on psychiatric medication in the institution. I was released with a 30 day supply. Where do I go to receive refills?

ANSWER: Officers have multiple psychiatric resources in the community that can assist with medications. Based on the client's insurance status, they can be referred to the local comprehensive care agency, a hospital or other mental health services. Resource information can be obtained from the Probation & Parole Office or by calling the Resource Information Hotline at 1-877-466-2834.

HOW DOES AN INMATE GET FROM JAIL TO PRISON?

By Abigail R. McIntire-Program Administrator
Roederer Correctional Complex

Once a defendant is sentenced by the Judge they become an inmate on the Kentucky Department of Corrections Controlled Intake List. At that point they are assigned a DOC inmate number. Inmates then remain in the jail waiting for one of two things to happen. Paperwork is completed to transfer to the Class C or Class D program and may remain in a county jail to serve their sentence per statute. Inmates must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible to remain in the county jail to serve their sentence. If they are not eligible they are brought into the Assessment Center to be classified and sent to an institution that meets the inmates' appropriate custody level.

The Unit Directors in the Assessment Center order inmates from the county jails using the Controlled Intake List. On a daily basis the Assessment Center transfers inmates out to other State prisons and Halfway Houses and receives intake from county jails across the state .

An inmate is delivered to the Assessment Center by the County Jail or the Sheriff's Department. The first stop is our Assessment Center's Identification Department where they are processed through several different areas. According to Roederer Correctional Complex's Institutional Policy & Procedure (IPP) 17-01-02 the following procedure is conducted on every inmate that enters the Assessment Center. Initial Search Procedure-the inmate is required to submit to a thorough search, including a strip search. If the inmate came with any personal property a thorough inventory is completed. Authorized inmate personal property is outlined in Correction's Policy & Procedure (CPP) 17.1. All unauthorized clothing and property can be donated by the inmate or mailed home to the inmate's family. Upon admission each inmate is required to take a complete shower and apply treatment for prevention of body lice. Each inmate is required to shave upon entry prior to taking ID photo; beard is to be removed also. All inmates are issued a state uniform and state shoes. The inmate is then fingerprinted on the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). An inmate photograph is taken for an ID.

Next, initial medical, dental and mental health screenings are performed on each inmate. DNA sample is collected if not previously completed during the presentence investigation (PSI).

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Once the inmate has completed the ID process they will then see a Classification and Treatment Officer where an initial intake packet is completed. The CTO ensures that there are no conflicts so that the inmate may be housed in a safe environment.

Within two weeks the inmate is classified and placed on a transfer waiting list. Each day the Assessment Center reviews open beds across the state to determine where inmates will be transferred.

Female offenders will go to the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW) and complete a similar process.

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Roederer Correctional Complex

KEY PERSONNEL AT RCC

- **Warden: Martin “Dino” Granado**
- **Deputy Warden: Sharon Veech**
- **Deputy Warden: Vanessa Kennedy**
- **Reentry Coordinator: John Thorpe**

• **KEY PERSONNEL AT KCIW**

- **Warden: Janet Conover**
- **Deputy Warden: Wes Dawson**
- **Reentry Coordinator: Tom Morrison**



Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women



Reentry MythBusters

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council
www.nationalreentryresourcescenter.org



Reentry MythBusters are a first product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council. They are essentially fact sheets, designed to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families in areas such as public housing, access to benefits, parental rights, employer incentives, Medicaid suspension/termination, and more. Additional information can be found at their website.

In the October 2011 edition of “The Tool Kit” and the November 2011 edition of “Homeward Bound” mythbusters were published. Because of the importance of this information, we feel it would be of help to review these points along with an expansion of information on each.

MYTH: Individuals convicted of a felony can never receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits.

FACT: This ban applies only to convicted drug felons, and only thirteen States have kept the ban in place in its entirety. Kentucky has a modified ban which will allow some individuals to regain eligibility by meeting certain additional requirements, like receiving or completing drug treatment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Section 115 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 prohibited States from providing Food Stamps (now the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) to convicted **drug** felons unless the State passes legislation to extend benefits to these individuals.

Only the following 13 States have kept the welfare ban entirely in place: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia. All other States have modified the ban or have eliminated it entirely.

The following 18 States and the District of Columbia have eliminated the ban entirely: Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

The following 19 States have amended the ban to allow some individuals to regain eligibility by meeting certain additional requirements, like receiving or completing drug or alcohol treatment: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin.