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BRIGID ADAMS
BRIGID.ADAMS@KY.GOV

CHERYL MILLION
CHERYLA.MILLION@KY.GOV

MAVIS MCCOWAN
MAVIS.MCCOWAN2@KY.GOV

MELISSA MOORE
MELISSAJ.MOORE@KY.GOV

TANYA STEVENS
TANYAR.STEVENS@KY.GOV

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**“Goodwill’s
Cars to Work
Program”
See page 7 for details**

The Tool Kit

Sex Offender Computer and Internet Management

By Elizabeth R. Smith Probation & Parole Officer II

“Idleness is the root of mischief”

(Chaucer's 'Tale of Melibee' (c. 1386))

Idle can be defined as “... not spent or filled with activity” (www.dictionary.com). In supervising sex offenders we have found it to be a common occurrence that technology has become a necessity in the lives of sex offenders. Either their offense was committed with the use of some sort of technology or the change in times has proven that a computer is needed in order to succeed in the required job endeavor and/or fulfill the needs of day to day activity. With this type of offender(s) and the reliance and open access to technology it is the fear that this “idleness” can lead to regression in their supervision and treatment. As a result, conditions have been imposed on sex offenders that require the installation of monitoring software on personal computers. Over the years we have used different available monitoring programs that have proven to be somewhat confusing or time consuming on the part of the Officer.

In January 2013 Sex Offender Officers throughout the State of Kentucky participated in the Certification Course on the Essentials of Computer and Internet Management, presented by the Coordinator with NCPTC. During the training course all Officers were presented with a great deal of information that covered all aspects of our new monitoring software.

“The Internet has turned out to be the worst demon one could ever fear to meet because it offers to satisfy your every lust and desire - at the expense of your soul.”

-Words from a convicted sex offender

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This new tool will provide Officers with the ability to not only monitor an offender's computer use but to also gain more knowledge in regards to the offender and his habits. This ability to monitor an offender's computer will also provide the Officer with a better outlook on offenders interests, idle time and, should it ever occur, the offender's manipulation and violation of imposed conditions.

Through the monitoring software Officers will receive weekly reports that provide us with that specific offenders computer use. As each case is different and no two sex offenses are the exact same, Officers are also able to tailor each individual monitoring case to the need (and specific court conditions) of that offender and offense. In doing so, this new monitoring software allows the officer to place certain restrictions based on a general category (i.e. social networking, chat rooms, XXX, etc ...) or by R.I.S.K. word and/or application (i.e. an Officer's name, sex terms, and specific terms). Each time that a restricted site or term is accessed or attempted to be accessed, the Officer is able to receive notification by email and through the monitoring software interface site. Unlike monitoring software in the past, [NCPTC](#) is able to provide the officer with a screenshot of the computer use that has been deemed in violation.

When reviewing the reports, this software allows for different views. This will prove to be helpful as it can show the computer use by time-line view (chronological order), drill-down view (quick review based on site) or the calendar view which provides an officer the ability to see an offender's computer use history over a period of month. The calendar view summarizes their use in a way that we are able to more clearly review their patterns of use or lack of use.

Throughout this two day training we were able to get a hands-on approach with the monitoring software and get a better feel on how to maneuver the interface accounts. The presenter also provided us with information and examples on how the internet is being used as a "necessary evil" which re-emphasized the importance that offenders of this nature continue to be monitored.

This software will provide us with the tool that we need to more effectively supervise those offenders who have used "idleness" in a way that acquired new victims. Our use of this monitoring software is in hopes that we, as supervising Officers, are able to get a better idea of this necessary evil, the way it is being used in the sex offender community and to assure that the offenders remain in compliance with their conditions in a manner that does not allow for the number of victims to rise any further.

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January 2013 Sex Offender Officers from throughout the State of Kentucky participated in the Certification Course on the Essentials of Computer and Internet Management, presented by the Coordinator with NCPTC.



PARENTING TIPS—QUESTIONS CHILDREN ASK

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.

A child needs contact with the parent in prison for the relationship to continue in a meaningful way. It also helps the child adjust to and heal from the separation. A child may have contact with an incarcerated mother or father by personal visits, letters, or phone calls. But the value of the contact often depends on the quality of the interactions and the content of the conversations.

Collect calls from prison are expensive and need to be kept short. Children are often not included in calls except for a fast greeting. Sometimes the children have so little to say that it seems that the conversation is meaningless. Yet hearing the parent’s voice, even for a short time, may be more reassuring than it seems.

Mail from a parent in prison is important to children. A post card, acknowledging an accomplishment or remembering a birthday or holiday, means a lot to all children. Children of prisoners have little else to connect them to their parents, so mail from them is especially treasured. But children of prisoners need more than just contact from the parents and other adults. They need help coming to terms with what has happened. Children need a safe place to express their fears and feelings, and find answers to their questions.

There are four main questions that children ask or want to ask their incarcerated parents:

- Where are you?
- Why are you there?
- When are you coming home?
- Are you okay?

There are also two questions in the hearts and minds of prisoners’ children that they rarely ask and are often “behind the scenes” in their conversations:

- Do you blame me?
- Do you love me?

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These questions can come in many forms. Some children ask them directly with straightforward language. Other children beat around the bush. Some act out their questions by getting into trouble or by confronting adults with challenging or aggressive behaviors.

THE ANSWERS PARENTS GIVE

Incarcerated parents, their children's caregivers, and other interested adults should prepare to answer these questions. Sometimes parents are uncomfortable having these conversations. More often they are just not sure how to answer children's questions in ways that children will understand.

Another issue is who will answer the questions? An incarcerated parent who is active in the child's life will want to be the one to answer most of these questions. Children typically ask about the experiences of the prisoner parent. These questions should be answered by that parent whenever possible. Sometimes though, the job of answering these questions belongs only to the caregiver or other parent. In either case, children seem to respond best when their questions are answered simply and honestly.

This article was written to help parents in prison and the caregivers of their children as they try to answer children's questions. As painful as these conversations may be, parents and children will weather the separation best when children better understand the situation.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Children's caretakers often try to protect children by avoiding the truth about the whereabouts of their incarcerated parent. There are several stories often used by parents and family members to answer the question "Where is Mom or Dad?" or "Where are you?"

Away at school: Sometimes children are told the parent in prison is "away at school." This lie rarely succeeds with school aged children who are old enough to understand that people (even college students) come home from school sometimes. Children of prisoners may already have difficulty in school. It doesn't help to associate school with the pain of what feels like permanent separation from parents. It might even lead to, or exaggerate, a dislike of going to school.

Working far away: Sometimes children are told the parent in prison is "working far away." This may satisfy children at first, especially if there is not increased financial stress. But it is hard for children to understand why money is tighter if the parent went away to work. Why aren't they sending home money? Children could assume that a parent doesn't want to see them or they would come home on their days off.

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In the military: Sometimes children are told the parent in prison is “in the military.” This can give children a way to explain their parents’ absence to their friends, especially if the parent’s sentence is short. But in times of world conflict, it usually leaves children afraid of war and dangers. This can increase their worry and fear.

In the hospital: Sometimes children are told the parent in prison is “in the hospital.” This can raise children’s fear of doctors and hospitals, and increase anxiety over the health of the parent. When parents do not return home within a few days, many children imagine that the parent has died and that no one is telling them the truth.

Regardless of the story, these lies become exposed to the child sooner or later, usually sooner if the child is visiting the parent in prison. As children read, watch TV, and listen to people talk, they quickly learn what a prison is and how it differs from work, school, or the military. Then the fact that the prison is not a school, hospital, or military base become clear to them.

Tune in next month’s edition and we will discuss what happens when children realize they have been lied to about where you are and some suggestions on how to address those very important questions of :

- *Where are you?*
- *Why are you there?*
- *When are you coming home?*
- *Are you okay?*

GOODWILL

CARS TO WORK PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How do I refer someone, or get referred to Cars To Work (CTW)?

- CTW is not a public car dealership; everyone in the program must be referred from a partnering agency or non-profit.
- Your agency/non-profit must sign a partnership agreement.
 - Once in partnership, a referral form for E ACH person referred is required along with a completed budget, application and release of information.
- Agencies/non-profits give the person being referred a copy of a check sheet for items they'll need to bring when meeting with CTW.
- Agencies/non-profits either fax, email or mail the referral, budget worksheet, application and any other supporting material to the CTW office in your area. Once it is received, CTW will contact the applicant.

How long does it take?

- While the goal is to provide dependable transportation to those who qualify as quickly as possible, due to high demand CTW may sometimes have a waiting list.
- Waiting list will be first come, first served.

How much does a car cost?

- The loan amount for the car is 80% of its retail value, however Goodwill Cars to Work Inc., also provides a warranty and buys down the loan interest so recipients are paying zero interest on the vehicle.
- A down payment at the time of purchase of \$250.00 is required to cover taxes, title and registration.

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This down payment is in addition to the car loan amount.

- Payments are approximately \$200.00 a month. Payments are sometimes lower, depending on the cost of the car and the length of the loan. Loans range from 12-24 months.

Will the vehicle have a warranty?

- Yes, every CTW vehicle had a warranty to cover major repairs for the length of the car loan. However, recipients are responsible for regular maintenance on the vehicle, like oil changes and replacing brake pads.

What if I have bad credit?

- The CTW is designed to help people obtain and maintain employment with a safe, dependable car. We do look at your credit history but it is not the ONLY factor we consider when you apply.
- CTW understands that financial hardship does occur and is willing to work with people who wouldn't normally be able to obtain bank financing.
- During the life of your car loan, your payments are reported to the three major credit bureaus, this can help your credit score in the future.

What about insurance?

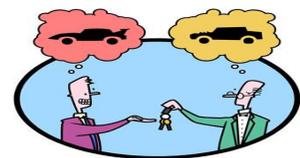
- Every loan recipient must agree to and is required to keep state minimum insurance on their vehicle. This cost will be in addition to the car loan payment.

I'm not working, can I get a vehicle?

- CTW was created to provide reliable transportation to and from work; you must be employed to be considered.

Will I get a car?

- Being referred to CTW and/or applying for a CTW loan does NOT guarantee that you will be approved for a CTW vehicle.



Jefferson County Legal Aid Society

The mission of the Legal Aid Society is to pursue justice for people in poverty. Legal Aid provides free legal services to low-income families and individuals facing serious threats to their physical and economic well-being. For more information, visit Legal Aid's website at www.laslou.org

FORECLOSURE CLINIC

Tuesday, February 26, at 11:00 AM

Legal Aid Society Office (416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.)

Attorneys will be on hand to answer questions about foreclosures and provide advice on alternatives to foreclosure.

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EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

Tuesday, February 26, at 2:00 PM

Legal Aid Society Office 416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.)

An attorney will be on hand to discuss the expungement process and which charges can be expunged. Attendees are encouraged to bring a copy of their criminal record which shows the disposition of each case. A copy of the record may be obtained from Court Archives located in the basement of the Old Jail Building at 514 West Liberty Street in Louisville.

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DIVORCE CLINIC

Wednesday, February 27, at 10:00 AM

Legal Aid Society Office (416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.)

Clients will receive assistance from attorneys in filling out all of the necessary paperwork to file for a divorce.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Time:

Issues related to newly incarcerated offenders:

6:00 PM—7:00 PM

Issues related to offenders nearing release:

7:30PM— 8:30 PM

The Southern Kentucky Reentry Council will be hosting a Family Engagement session for family members and significant other(s) of those individuals recently incarcerated or reentering society from incarceration. This will provide an opportunity to ask questions and provide valuable resource information from your community.

There will be a representative from resources in your community as well as representatives from the Department of Corrections for an open discussion on incarceration / release issues. The first hour will be devoted toward those that have family entering incarceration and the last hour will be devoted to the families of offenders who are coming home.

WHERE: Bowling Green FOP Lodge
150 Corvette Drive
Bowling Green, KY 42101

QUESTIONS: Call the Reentry Branch at 502-564-2220