

Working with Incarcerated Parents

Background Notes

Some of the parents whom DHS works with are incarcerated in jails or prisons. It is important to recognize that DHS is required to engage parents in the planning for their children and provide services to parents regardless of their incarceration, unless their rights have been terminated. It is also important to have an understanding of how children of incarcerated parents are affected socially and emotionally.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Find out the names of the local penal institutions in your area. Who do you contact in each institution to set up a visit with a parent?
- Is there a liaison in your office for the local penal institutions?
- How are parent/child visits handled at the local institutions?
- What services do the local penal institutions offer to individuals?
- What services can you provide to parents who are incarcerated? Talk with your Supervisor about how to engage incarcerated parents in services. How can they demonstrate change? What is your legal mandate in working with them?

Discoveries:

- *Think of ways that you can help children to talk about and deal with their emotions.*
- *How can you help children to maintain attachments to their parents who are incarcerated? What is your value system around this subject?*

Working with Incarcerated Parents continued...

Tasks / Assignments:

- How do you work with parents who are in penal institutions in other states or outside your local area?

Discoveries:

