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Recent Materials on Working with Incarcerated Parents 2010-present

You Don't Have to Stop Being a Parent While You Are Incarcerated [Female Facility].

New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

2011

Intended for incarcerated females in New York State, this fact sheet explains the rights of parents to make arrangements for their child's care, be informed about the foster care agency responsible for the child's care, know how to reach the family caseworker, participate in permanency planning for the child, get information about family visiting, visit with the child, be assigned an attorney for the Family Court case, and attend Family Court proceedings. The responsibilities of incarcerated parents are also explained, as well as a petition to terminate parental rights, permanency planning, and Family Service Plans.

[http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications//Pub%205113.2P%20\(female\)%20You%20dont%20have%20to%20stop%20being%20a%20parent%20while%20you%20are%20Incarcerated.pdf](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications//Pub%205113.2P%20(female)%20You%20dont%20have%20to%20stop%20being%20a%20parent%20while%20you%20are%20Incarcerated.pdf)

You Don't Have to Stop Being a Parent While You Are Incarcerated [Male Facility].

New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

2011

Intended for incarcerated males in New York State, this fact sheet explains the rights of parents to make arrangements for their child's care, be informed about the foster care agency responsible for the child's care, know how to reach the family caseworker, participate in permanency planning for the child, get information about family visiting, visit with the child, be assigned an attorney for the Family Court case, and attend Family Court proceedings. The responsibilities of incarcerated parents are also explained, as well as a petition to terminate parental rights, permanency planning, and Family Service Plans.

[http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications//Pub%205113.1P%20\(Male\)%20You%20dont%20have%20to%20stop%20being%20a%20parent%20while%20you%20are%20Incarcerated%20.pdf](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications//Pub%205113.1P%20(Male)%20You%20dont%20have%20to%20stop%20being%20a%20parent%20while%20you%20are%20Incarcerated%20.pdf)

Incarcerated Parents and Parents in Residential Substance Abuse Treatment with Children in Foster Care: Termination of Parental Rights and Other Issues.

New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

2011

The purpose of this Administrative Directive (ADM) is to inform social services districts and voluntary authorized agencies of Chapter 113 of the Laws of 2010 which was signed into law on June 15th, 2010. Chapter 113 amends Social Services Law 384-b by adding additional



considerations to the requirement that social services districts file petitions to terminate parental rights (TPR) when a child has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months. An exception to the requirement to file a TPR may apply to some parents who are currently incarcerated or in a residential substance abuse treatment program or to parents whose past term of incarceration or participation in a residential substance abuse treatment program was a significant factor in the child's remaining in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months. In such cases, before filing a TPR petition the agency must assess whether the parent has maintained a meaningful role in the child's life and whether terminating the parent's rights is in the child's best interests.

http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/policies/external/OCFS_2011/ADMs/11-OCFS-ADM-07%20Incarcerated%20Parents%20and%20Parents%20in%20Residential%20Substance%20Abuse%20Treatment%20with%20Children%20in%20Foster%20Care%20Termination%20of%20Parental%20Rights%20and%20Other%20Issues.pdf

Coparenting in Kinship Families With Incarcerated Mothers: A Qualitative Study.

Strozier, Anne L. Armstrong, Mary. Skuza, Stella. Cecil, Dawn. McHale, James.

2011

Families in Society : The Journal of Contemporary Social Services

92 (2) p. 55-61

The number of incarcerated mothers has risen steadily in the past 20 years, with a majority of the mothers' children being cared for by relatives, usually the maternal grandmother (Smith, Krisman, Strozier, & Marley, 2004). This article examines the unique coparenting relationship of grandmothers and mothers through qualitative individual interviews with a sample of 24 incarcerated mothers with children between the ages of 2 and 6, and 24 grandmothers raising their children. The study revealed many different variants of healthy coparenting alliances, achieved against often huge odds. Much variation was also discovered in dyads where coparenting alliances were not as successful. Implications for practice include performing structural family assessments, enhancing jail education programs, and offering extended coparenting treatment after discharge. (Author abstract)

Children on the Outside: Voicing the Pain and Human Costs of Parental Incarceration.

Allard, Patricia. Greene, Judith.

Tides Center. Justice Strategies (Project)

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

2011

This report is based on eight two-hour focus groups - with eight to twelve participants in each group- and 18 structured interviews conducted in New York and Alabama with children of incarcerated parents, parents currently behind bars, caregivers, and caseworkers and counselors who work in programs to assist parents re-entering society after prison terms. The study documents the high costs of parental incarceration, largely in the words of those most directly affected, the children. Key findings indicate: 1) An undermined sense of stability and safety - The sudden removal of a parent from daily life fundamentally undermines a child's sense

of stability and safety; 2) Threats to economic security - Parental incarceration, unsurprisingly, impacts the economic circumstances of children and the extended family; 3) A compromised sense of connectedness and worthiness - Parental incarceration presents significant obstacles to a child's experience of the kind of unconditional bond with parents needed to lay the foundation for a stable adult life; 4) Loss of attachments and ability to trust - Once the parental presence is removed, many young people have trouble trusting others and letting caring adults into their lives; and 5) No sense of having a place in the world - Children typically experience parental incarceration as a form of rejection; they see the parent's reckless behavior as having taken precedence over their family. Recommendations are provided. (Author abstract modified)

<http://www.justicestrategies.org/sites/default/files/publications/JS-COIP-1-13-11.pdf>

Fathers for Life: Strengthening Families and Fatherhood: Children of Fathers in the Criminal Justice System [Website].

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Administration for Children & Families. Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center.

2011

This resource was developed under an Innovation and Improvement Project grant from the Office of Head Start with the goal to encourage and support positive relationships of families with infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children of incarcerated fathers or fathers on probation or parole. Head Start programs may find this resource useful. (Author abstract)

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/New%20Parental%20Involvement/Fatherhood/FathersLife.htm>

Arizona Family Members Behind Bars: Difficult Questions Children Ask and Answers That Might Help: A Caregiver's Guide to Arizona's Criminal Justice System From Arrest to Release.

Arizona's Children Association. KARE Family Center. Pima Prevention Partnership. Arizona STARS Collaboration.

2011

This manual is intended to guide parents and other caregivers in helping children understand and cope with the impact of having a parent or other loved one arrested and imprisoned in Arizona. It begins with information about the Pima Prevention Partnership's Arizona STARS Collaboration that works on behalf of children of incarcerated parents in the State of Arizona, and the KARE Family Center that provides resources for relatives raising children in Tucson, Arizona. Ten top tips for caregivers are then listed. Following sections of the guide are divided into the various stages of the criminal justice system, from arrest to release. Answers to questions children may have at each stage of the process are answered, including questions related to the criminal justice process, arrest, court, conviction, sentencing, prison, and probation and parole. A flow chart illustrates the sequence of events in a criminal prosecution and the criminal justice process, and a list of useful Internet resources is provided. Contact information is also given for incarceration facilities in Arizona. The guide closes with a bill of rights for children

for incarcerated parents.

<http://fcnnetwork.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/ArizonaCareGiversGuideENGLISH.pdf>

Reentry Myth Buster: Child Welfare Agencies are Required to Terminate Parental Rights if a Parent is Incarcerated.

Federal Interagency Reentry Council.

2011

This fact sheet explains that important exceptions to the requirement to terminate parental rights provide child welfare agencies and States with the discretion to work with incarcerated parents, their children, and the caregivers to preserve and strengthen family relationships. Exceptions to the mandatory parental termination filing rule under the Adoption and Safe Families Act are explained, and include provisions that allow States not to file if the child is being care for a relative and the State agency has documented in the case plan a compelling reason for determining that filing such a petition would not be in the best interests of the child.

http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1060/Reentry_Council_Mythbuster_Parental_Rights.pdf

Babies Behind Bars: Nurseries for Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children.

Stein, Deborah Jiang.

2010

Children's Voice

19 (4) 6 html pages

Told by an adult who lived in a women's prison as an infant, this article discusses the impact of having an incarcerated mother. It reviews statistics on the number of children with incarcerated parents and the development of nursery programs for pregnant incarcerated women. The importance of parent and child bonding is discussed and the nursery in the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) is profiled.

<http://cwla.org/voice/JA10babies.html>

Mothers in Trouble: Coping With Actual or Pending Separation From Children Due to Incarceration.

Celinska, Katarzyna. Siegel, Jane A.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

2010

The Prison Journal

90 (4) p. 447-474

Although female offenders are the fastest growing population in prison today, relatively few studies focus on their unique experiences as mothers. In this study, the authors utilize 74 semistructured interviews with mothers before trial and during incarceration to document coping strategies employed to deal with potential or actual separation from their children. From the study data, seven strategies emerge: being a good mother, mothering from prison, role redefinition, disassociation from prisoner identity, self-transformation, planning and preparation,

and self-blame. The findings show that mothers used multiple strategies and tended to employ emotion-focused and adaptive coping techniques. The policy implications are discussed. (Author abstract)

From Arrest to Homecoming: Addressing the Needs of Children of Incarcerated Parents [Presentation Slides].

diZerega, Margaret. Newell, Dee Ann. Lincroft, Yali.

National Reentry Resource Center. United States. Bureau of Justice Assistance. Council of State Governments Justice Center.

Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind.

2010

This slide presentation begins by offering statistics on the children of incarcerated parents and then discusses the importance of maintaining parental contact. The impact of separation due to incarceration and the trauma felt by children is described, as well as the benefits for children in maintaining relationships with their incarcerated parents. Stress points are identified from parental arrest to re-entry and tips for helping parents and children are provided for service providers. Suggested models of peer-to-peer support groups and models using a Co-Parenting Agreement are highlighted. A second presentation provides information on the needs of children in foster care who have a parent who is currently incarcerated and explains the rights of parents and the important role of social workers in facilitating communication and providing best practice for these families. A list of child welfare models and resources is provided for incarcerated parents with children in the child welfare system and for immigrant parents.

http://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/0748/CIP_Webinar_9_1_10_YL_MRD_FINAL.pdf

Childhood Disrupted: Understanding the Features and Effects of Maternal Incarceration.

Meyerson, Jessica. Otteson, Christa. Ryba, Krysten Lynn.

Volunteers of America. Wilder Research.

2010

This report discusses findings of a qualitative study that explored the characteristics and needs of incarcerated mothers participating in the Look Up and Hope (LUH) initiative, a program designed to provide comprehensive, coordinated, long-term services for incarcerated mothers, their children, and their children's caregivers. The study interviewed 76 mothers across all five pilot sites, 73 caregivers, and 68 minor children. Findings indicate more than half of the incarcerated mothers were between the ages of 31-45, the majority had never been married, 91% had a history of substance abuse, and 67% reportedly lived with their children prior to their incarceration. Over one-third of the women had not seen their children for more than a month and five of the women had not seen them for a year or more. The study found that the children interviewed had high hopes for the future, 84% liked where they were living, and they were hopeful about reunification. A variety of needs were identified by caregivers, parents, and children and included ongoing support and assistance for mothers with recovery from substance use, material goods, income and employment, health care, transportation, counseling and

emotional healing, and recreational activities for children. Implications for programming are discussed. 23 figures and 13 references.

<http://www.voa.org/Childhood-Disrupted-Report>

Traumatic Histories and Stressful Life Events of Incarcerated Parents: Childhood and Adult Trauma Histories.

Carlson, Bonnie E. Shafer, Michael S.

Arizona State University.

2010

The Prison Journal

90 (4) p. 475-493

Abuse and trauma are common in the histories of prison inmates. This article presents the results of research on the trauma histories and stressful life events experienced by 2,279 male and female inmate parents in Arizona, with a particular focus on gender and ethnic differences across inmates. A sample of 838 incarcerated fathers and 1,441 mothers completed anonymous questionnaires regarding traumatic and stressful events experienced as children and/or adults. High rates of exposure to childhood and adult traumatic events, especially child abuse, were found for both males and females and across ethnic groups. (Author abstract)

California's Mother-Infant Prison Programs: An Investigation.

Shain, Karen. Strickman, Carol. Rederford, Robin.

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (Calif.)

2010

This report discusses an evaluation of six small mother-infant prison facilities in California, all run by outside contractors with an on-site representative of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The three Family Foundations facilities are located in Fresno (contracted by WestCare), Santa Fe Springs (Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LACADA) and San Diego (WestCare). Women are sent to the Family Foundations Program by their sentencing judge. The Community Prisoner Mother Program (CPMP) consists of three facilities located in Oakland (Project Pride), Pomona (Prototypes) and Bakersfield (Turning Point). Women are transferred to these programs after entering state prison and applying to CDCR for admission. Information was gathered through visits to all six of these facilities in 2009, communications from relatives of the mothers, CDCR materials, and a review of relevant statutes. Information is provided on a number of program features, such as childcare/childrearing issues, food, medical care, relationship to the outside world, and re-entry. Findings indicate all of the mothers in these programs are grateful to be in them and that there are many positive qualities; however, there often delays in getting "dental eligibility" resulting in unnecessary tooth extractions, the programs are not sufficiently "child-friendly", access to medical care can be problematic, and inadequate attention is paid to helping these mothers successfully reenter the free world. Recommendations are made, including developing community-based alternatives to serve the needs of these mothers and their young children. 24

references.

http://fcnnetwork.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/Complete-CPMP-report_resources_2011.pdf

Children's Contact With Their Incarcerated Parents: Research Findings and Recommendations.

Poehlmann, Julie. Dallaire, Danielle. Loper, Ann Booker. Shear, Leslie D.

University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2010

American Psychologist

65 (6) p. 575-598

Approximately 1.7 million children have parents who are incarcerated in prison in the United States, and possibly millions of additional children have a parent incarcerated in jail. Many affected children experience increased risk for developing behavior problems, academic failure, and substance abuse. For a growing number of children, incarcerated parents, caregivers, and professionals, parent-child contact during the imprisonment period is a key issue. In this article, we present a conceptual model to provide a framework within which to interpret findings about parent-child contact when parents are incarcerated. We then summarize recent research examining parent-child contact in context. On the basis of the research reviewed, we present initial recommendations for children's contact with incarcerated parents and also suggest areas for future intervention and research with this vulnerable population. (Author abstract)

Parenting Programs for Prisoners (chapter in Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Handbook for Researchers and Practitioners).

Loper, Ann Booker. Novero, Caitlin M.

2010

Unique aspects of parenting interventions for parents are described and the current status of parenting programs in prison are reviewed. Results from qualitative and quantitative program evaluations are shared, including findings on intervention content, knowledge and attitudes, mental well-being and parenting stress, and behavioral changes. Limitations on existing research are noted and future directions suggested. 1 table and 72 references.

Mothers Behind Bars: A State-by-State Report Card and Analysis of Federal Policies on Conditions of Confinement for Pregnant and Parenting Women and the Effect on Their Children.

Saar, Malika Saada. Morrison, Jill C.

Rebecca Project for Human Rights. National Women's Law Center.

2010

Sponsoring Organization: Ford Foundation. Turner Foundation. Moriah Fund.

The Rebecca Project and the National Women's Law Center collaborated on this Report Card, which analyzes federal and state policies on prenatal care, shackling, alternative sentencing programs, and prison nursery programs and grades states on whether their policies help or harm incarcerated women in these key areas. This effort is intended to help advocates assess their own

state's policies affecting these significant phases of pregnancy, labor and delivery, and parenting. The Report Card also provides an analysis of related federal laws and policies regarding conditions of confinement for women in federal prisons and immigration detention facilities. Additionally, it assesses how the federal government funds state programs that serve incarcerated pregnant or parenting women. (Author abstract)

<http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/mothersbehindbars2010.pdf>

Theory-Based Multimodal Parenting Intervention for Incarcerated Parents and Their Children (chapter in *Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Handbook for Researchers and Practitioners*).

Eddy, J. Mark. Kjellstrand, Jean. Martinez, Charles R., Jr. Newton, Rex.

2010

This chapter discusses the benefits of a contextually sensitive, multimodal corrections-based parenting program based on coercion theory for ensuring a positive impact on inmates, their children and families, and society at large. Current parenting programs are reviewed, as well as coercion theory, contextual challenges most commonly faced by incarcerated parents, and interventions targeting contextual challenges. Components of a coercion therapy-based parenting programs are then described. 1 figure and numerous references.

Incarceration and Family Relationships: A Fact Sheet.

National Healthy Marriage Resource Center.

2010

Men and women who are incarcerated face substantial challenges to maintaining their family relationships, both intimate and parenting. These difficulties continue as they reenter into society after their incarceration. Absence from or low levels of contact between partners due to incarceration places strain on marriages and serious romantic relationships. Parental absence due to incarceration can also imperil the well-being of children (if the parent-child relationship was not abusive). Studies show that incarcerated individuals with closer family relationships have lower recidivism rates, exhibit better behavior while in prison, are more likely to work, and are less likely to use drugs after release. This Fact Sheet provides data on the nature of family involvement among inmates. It presents research on factors that strain family relationships (in both the context of romantic relationships and parenting) when one partner is incarcerated. It also describes some of the efforts underway to maintain marriages and parent-child relationships during incarceration. (Author abstract)

<http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org/docs/IncarcerationFamily.pdf>

The Past as Prologue: Parental Incarceration, Service Planning, and Intervention Development in Context (chapter in *Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Handbook for Researchers and Practitioners*).

Phillips, Susan D.

2010

This chapter describes the evolution of research on parental incarceration and ongoing service planning and intervention development efforts in the context of these policy reforms. The rise of

prison populations is noted, and both parent-centered and child-centered research and interventions are discussed. 76 references.

An Exploratory Study of the Range of Implications of Families' Criminal Justice System Involvement in Child Welfare Cases.

Phillips, Susan D. Dettlaff, Alan J. Baldwin, Melinda J.
2010

Children and Youth Services Review
32 (4) p. 544-550

This article describes findings from a review of child protective services case records that was conducted to further understanding of the relevance of families' criminal justice system involvement in child welfare cases. Records suggest there are four broad categories of scenarios in which families' criminal justice and child welfare involvement intersect. These include: (1) instances in which parental arrest and child maltreatment investigations coincide; (2) consideration of parents' criminal histories in the decision to remove children from the care of their parents; (3) consideration of relatives' criminal histories in decisions to place children in foster care; and (4) instances in which child protective services agencies become involved with children whose parents are incarcerated because of risks to children's current safety or inadequate resources. Variations within these categories are described and discussed in the context of ongoing advocacy on behalf of incarcerated parents and their children. (Author abstract)

Traumatic Histories and Stressful Life Events of Incarcerated Parents II: Gender and Ethnic Differences in Substance Abuse and Service Needs.

Carlson, Bonnie E. Shafer, Michael S. Duffee, David E.
Arizona State University.
2010

The Prison Journal
90 (4) p. 494-515

Substance abuse is increasingly common in prison inmates. This article presents findings on substance abuse and service needs of male and female inmate parents in Arizona, with a particular focus on gender and ethnic differences across inmates. A sample of 838 incarcerated fathers and 1,441 mothers completed anonymous questionnaires regarding traumatic and stressful events experienced as children and/or adults, including addiction. Exposure to childhood and adult traumatic events, especially child abuse, was related to self-reported alcohol and drug problems for both males and females. Mothers reported significantly more postrelease service needs than fathers. Implications for practice and policy are discussed. (Author abstract)

Prison Programs and Services for Incarcerated Parents and Their Underage Children: Results From a National Survey of Correctional Facilities.

Hoffmann, Heath C. Byrd, Amy L. Kightlinger, Alex M.
College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

2010

The Prison Journal

90 (4) p. 397-416

In 2007, approximately 810,000 men and women in state and federal prisons were parents to more than 1.7 million children under the age of 18, one third of whom will turn 18 while their parent(s) is incarcerated. Parental incarceration increases the risk that children will experience later behavioral and emotional problems, have troubles in school, and become involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Parenting-related prison programming offers some promise in lessening the negative consequences of parental incarceration, both for children and the incarcerated parent. This study presents the results from a national survey of wardens from male and female correctional facilities to measure the prevalence of programs and services for incarcerated parents and their underage children. (Author abstract)

Children, Child Support, and Parental Rights.

Quick Guide: Got a Record? Know Your Rights.

State Bar of Michigan.

2010

This guide reviews parental rights for incarcerated parents in Michigan. Presented in a question-and-answer format, the guide provide information on how a criminal record affects parental rights, child custody during incarceration, paperwork that needs to be completed if children with be with friends or a family member, children placed in foster care, child visitation, termination of parental rights, participation in court hearings about children, child support, the role of the Friend of the Court office, parole or probation conditions that prevent contact with children, reunification, and accessing legal assistance.

<http://www.michbar.org/programs/CII/pdfs/Children-ParentRightsPrintable.pdf>

Incarcerated Parents and Their Children: Findings from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (chapter in *Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Handbook for Researchers and Practitioners*).

Maruschak, Laura M. Glaze, Lauren E. Mumola, Christopher J.

2010

Statistics from the 1997 and 2004 Bureau of Justice Statistics surveys on incarcerated parents and their children are shared. Findings indicate an estimated 809,800 parents of minor children were incarcerated in 2007, an estimated 1.7 million children had an incarcerated parent in 2007, and only 48% of parents in State prison had been living with their children. The impact of parental incarceration on children is discussed, as well as notable characteristics of parents in federal prison. 2 figures , 4 tables, and 17 references.

An Attachment Perspective on Incarcerated Parents and their Children (Special Issue of *Attachment and Human Development*).

2010

Attachment and human development.

12 (4) p. 285-428

The Interface between Corrections and Child Welfare for Children of Incarcerated Parents (chapter in *Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Handbook for Researchers and Practitioners*).

de Haan, Benjamin.

2010

The growing number of children in nonrelative foster care with **incarcerated parents** is noted and the need to coordinate child welfare and criminal justice services to families involved with both systems is highlighted. Needed reforms in the areas of parental visitation, the coordination of child welfare and law enforcement practices, and the termination of parental rights are discussed, and recommendations are made. 44 references.

Engaging Nonresident Fathers in Child Welfare Cases: A Guide for Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Kendall, Jessica R. Pilnik, Lisa. Chiamulera, Claire S.

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System. American Humane. ABA Center on Children and the Law.

2010

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

Intended for court appointed special advocate volunteers and guardians ad litem, this guide offers practice tips for identifying and engaging fathers in cases involving child clients. It begins by describing the benefits of father involvement, including improving children's quality of life and providing children with adult connections. Barriers to father engagement are identified and a framework for involving fathers in children's lives is offered. Strategies discussed include: help to identify and locate the father, encourage the agency to find missing parents, assess whether the father could be a placement or other resource for the child, consider paternal relatives, talk to the child about his or her father and maternal and paternal relatives, recognize that fathers learn and seek help differently than mothers, try to engage incarcerated fathers, understand how substance abuse affects fathering, and advocate for including the father and paternal relatives in case planning and family group decision-making conferences. Additional information is provided on dimensions of effective fathering, the legal rights of fathers in child welfare cases, the most frequently requested services from fathers, and the different learning styles of men. A services checklist for fathers is included. 22 references.

http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/casa_brief.pdf

Parent-Child Interactions within Correctional Systems.

Council of State Governments Justice Center. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Open Society Institute. 2010

ABA Child Law Practice

29 (5) p. 74-77

This article discusses the incidence of parental incarceration and the challenges of parent-child visitation. Promising practices for assisting children with parents in prison are highlighted and include community and faith-based programs, visitation programs, child-in-residence programs,

community-based residential parenting programs, support groups for children, and parenting education programs. Advocacy recommendations are made. 29 references.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/child/clp/archives/vol29/july10.pdf>

Mother-Grandmother Coparenting Relationships in Families with Incarcerated Mothers: A Pilot Investigation.

Baker, Jason. McHale, James. Strozier, Anne. Cecil, Dawn.

University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2010

Family Process

49 (2) p. 165-184

Using new methods designed to assess coparenting between incarcerated mothers of preschool-aged children and the maternal grandmothers caring for the children during their absence, we examined relationships between coparenting quality during the mother's jail stay and both concurrent child behavior problems and later coparenting interactions following mothers' release and community reentry. Forty mother-grandmother dyads participated in joint coparenting discussions during the incarceration, with a smaller subset completing a parallel activity at home 1 month postrelease. Both women also participated in individual coparenting interviews during the incarceration, and reported on child behavior problems. Mother-grandmother coparenting interactions exhibited an overall structure similar to that documented in nuclear families, with population-specific dynamics also evident. The observational system demonstrated good interrater and internal reliability, and showed associations with maternal (but not grandmother) reports and descriptions of the coparenting relationship via interview. Greater coparenting relationship quality during incarceration was associated with fewer concurrent child externalizing behavior problems, and predicted more positive coparenting interactions postrelease. Findings suggest that the coparenting assessments were useful for understanding mother-grandmother coparenting relationships in these families and that importantly, these relationships were tied to children's functioning. Avenues for future research and considerations for intervention efforts are discussed. (Author abstract)