

COLLATERAL CONVICTS

IF MY PARENTS GO TO PRISON, WHAT HAPPENS TO ME ?

CONDENADOS COLATERALES
SI MIS PADRES VAN A LA CÁRCEL,
¿ QUE ME PASARÁ A MI ?

CONDAMNÉS COLLATÉRAUX
SI MES PARENTS VONT EN PRISON,
QUE VA-T-IL M'ARRIVER ?



"Child's Odyssey" by Spiros Derveniotis, Greece (www.cartoonmovement.com)

This exhibition focuses on the often neglected issue of children of incarcerated parents. It includes drawings and quotes by children from across the world and highlights local initiatives that address the issue and seek to fulfil the rights of children whose parents are incarcerated.

TRIAL AND SENTENCING

PROCÈS ET PEINES / EL PROCESO Y LA IMPOSICIÓN DE LA PENA

Alternatives to Imprisonment



In Egypt, when a child under 15 has both parents imprisoned, it is possible to delay the sentence of one of the parents until the other is released. This is on condition of the following: the husband and wife are to be sentenced to less than one year of imprisonment, are first time offenders, are not sentenced for the same crime and have a known residence.



In Italy, mothers of children up to 10 may opt for house detention to enable them to care for their children.



In Kyrgyzstan, first-time women offenders with children under 14 can have their sentences suspended.



In South Africa, a 2007 Constitutional Court ruling in the case S v M found that the impact of a proposed sentence on any dependent minor child must be taken into consideration. This is based on the country's constitution, which states that a child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child. Its issued guidelines provide:

1. The sentencing court should find out whether a convicted person is a primary caregiver whenever there are indications that this might be so.
2. The court should also ascertain the effect on the children of a custodial sentence if such a sentence is being considered.
3. If the appropriate sentence is clearly custodial and the convicted person is a primary caregiver, the court must apply its mind to whether it is necessary to take steps to ensure that the children will be adequately cared for while the caregiver is incarcerated.
4. If the appropriate sentence is clearly noncustodial, the court must determine the appropriate sentence, bearing in mind the interests of the children.
5. Finally, if there is a range of appropriate sentences, then the court must use the paramountcy principle concerning the interests of the child as an important guide in deciding which sentence to impose.

"IT WAS THE WORST TIME EVER."



"I REMEMBER WHEN THEY CAME AND GOT HER. I WAS SAD. I WAS CRYING BECAUSE IT WAS HARD TO SEE THEM COME AND TAKE MY MOM. I WAS MAD AT EVERYBODY. YOU COULD SAY I WAS MAD AT THE WORLD." TAYLOR

ZEHR, ANSTUTZ, "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?" / BOII, GOOD BOOKS.

"ON THE ACTUAL DAY OF SENTENCING IT WAS ARRANGED FOR THE KIDS TO MEET UP WITH THEIR MUM IN THE CAR PARK FOR A CUDDLE, TALK AND TO SAY GOODBYE."

BEST PRACTICE

A Website For Children



Children can learn about what happens in the court house by clicking on the people in the court picture. www.judicial.org.nz

Illustrations For Children



"La couleur de son procès a été arrêtée. Heureux que. C'est tout dire, n'est-ce pas?" demande Tom.



La couleur de son procès? "Peut-être que ça va être orange. Ça va être orange et ça va être du fait à quatre. Les. Alors, c'est tout dire, n'est-ce pas?"

La Fonds Houtman, "Petit Tom en visite."
Belgium, www.fonds-houtman.be

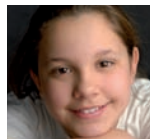
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?

QUE VA-T-IL SE PASSER MAINTENANT ? / Y AHORA, ¿ QUÉ PASA CONMIGO ?

10 Questions often asked by children whose parents are in prison:

1. Where is my mom or dad?
2. When is he or she coming home?
3. Why is he or she in jail or prison?
4. Can I talk to my mom or dad?
5. When can I see my mom or dad?
6. Who is going to take care of me?
7. Do my parents still love me?
8. Is this my fault?
9. Why do I feel so sad and angry?
10. Can I do something to help?

Zehr, Amstutz, "What Will Happen To Me?", 2011/Good Books.



"I hated my mom when she first went in. I thought she didn't love us. But I also missed her. People would tell me that she wasn't in there because she didn't love us. She was in there because she made a mistake and she did want to get out and be with us. If this does happen to someone, I would tell them to talk to people instead of keeping it in 'cause it just makes it worse. They love you and they didn't do it to hurt you; they just made some mistakes."

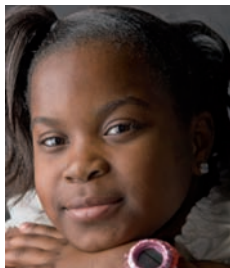
Brittanie



"My grandma filled in for my mom until she came back. So she was kind of acting like my mom. When my mom was gone, I'd cry myself to sleep. I don't really know my dad. He's still alive, but I wonder, is he getting hurt in jail or something like that? I want him back so I can be with him. I want them around so we could have a family."

Jalon

"I FELT SO SAD."



"I WAS JUST CRYING. IT JUST MADE MY HEAD HURT, MY BRAIN HURT, MY STOMACH HURT. IT JUST GOT CONTROL OF ME. IT GOT MY MIND TWISTED. I COULDN'T FOCUS ON ANYTHING ELSE..."

A WHOLE LOT OF DAYS I COULDN'T GO TO SLEEP WITHOUT MY MUM. I HAD SOME BAD DREAMS, SO MY DADDY GAVE ME AN INVISIBLE NECKLACE.

I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER. IT WAS LIKE A CURSE. IT WAS LIKE PRISON." JASMINE

ZEHR, AMSTUTZ, "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?", 2011, GOOD BOOKS.

BEST PRACTICE

Group Activities For Children

My Worry Bee



Give each child a bee. Ask them to give their worries to the worry bee by writing on his wings about their worries.

"My Daddy is in Jail" © 2010, Youthful Light, Inc.

EU Study



The EU-funded COPING Project is looking at the mental health and wellbeing of children with parents in prison in Europe. Based on the experiences of children from Germany, Romania, Sweden and the UK, this major study will suggest policy and practice changes to help children cope better with parental incarceration. www.copingproject.eu

Illustrations For Children



Barnardo's, "It's a tough time for everyone", Northern Ireland
www.barnardos.org.uk

VISITING MY PARENTS IN PRISON

RENDRE VISITE À MES PARENTS EN PRISON / VISITAR A MIS PADRES EN LA CÁRCEL



"You want to look really good, because you're seeing your mum and you rarely get to do that. You're rushing and you hope that your hair isn't getting messed up on the way there. You want to be perfect when she sees you."

Lexi



"The last time I saw my mum, I couldn't stop crying. She said, all she had was six more months and that it's not very long, but for me it was. Or it felt like it."

Lisa



"I didn't go along to visit last time. I wanted to play with my friends that day. I was a little bit angry because she's been there so many times. I want her to get out."

Shawn

"I WAS SCARED."



"WHEN I FIRST WENT TO THE PRISON IT WAS HARD BEING ABLE TO HUG MY MAMA AND THEN CAN'T TAKE HER WITH ME. NOW I'M USED TO IT. BUT I MISS MY MAMA AND I NEED HER. I HAD TO BE THE MAMA FOR MY SISTERS. MY AUNT SAYS I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN ABLE TO BE A CHILD."

ZEHR, AMSTUTZ, "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?", 2011, GOOD BOOKS.

BEST PRACTICE

"Get On The Bus"



Get On The Bus brings children and their guardians/caregivers from throughout the state of California to visit their mothers and fathers in prison. An annual event, "Get On The Bus" brings children and their caregivers to the prison for free, provides travel bags for the children, comfort care bags for the caregivers, a photo of each child with his or her parent, and meals for the day, all at no cost to the children's family. On the bus trip home, following a four-hour visit, each child receives a teddy bear with a letter from their parent and post-event counselling. www.getonthebus.ca

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars

The Girl Scouts Beyond Bars program was developed to foster stronger bonds between incarcerated mothers and their daughters, and to help break the cycle of intergenerational criminality. Twice each month Girl Scouts from across Oregon pass through security gates to visit their mothers. These mothers serve as troop leaders and work to re-establish their relationships with their daughters. www.girlscouts.org

Illustrations For Children



Barnardo's, "It's a tough time for everyone."
Northern Ireland, www.barnardos.org.uk

MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH PARENTS IN PRISON

MAINTENIR LE CONTACT AVEC DES PARENTS EN PRISON / QUEDARSE EN CONTACTO CON LOS PADRES MIENTRAS ESTÁN EN LA CÁRCEL

Children in Sweden were asked what would need to change to make it easier for them to have a parent in prison. They compiled a list of ten wishes. These included:



"Make it easier to visit a parent in prison."

"Nicer visiting areas."



"More time on leave for imprisoned people with children."

"More support and more information and dialogue."



"Longer visiting time."

"Small Children should not have to be searched when visiting prison."

"HE WROTE ME LETTERS."



"MY DAD WAS GONE FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS. EVERY TIME HE WAS GONE HE ALWAYS TALKED TO ME AND WROTE ME LETTERS. HE'S A GOOD ARTIST, AND EVERY TIME HE WROTE ME A LETTER, HE DREW SOMETHING IN IT."

I MISS MY MUM AND I **DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS**. I JUST WORRY 'CAUSE SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN TO HER, AND I WILL NEVER KNOW BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T CALL OR ANYTHING." TIEANA

ZIGHR, AMSTUTZ, "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?", 2011, GOOD BOOKS.

BEST PRACTICE

Memory Box



The Catholic University of Milan developed the "Memory Box" project. This project aims at keeping the child and the incarcerated parent in contact. It is a real box in which all that comes to light during the meetings, is stored. All issues are addressed through different expressive methods, which are often excellent tools to promote the expression of issues that otherwise would be too difficult to express in words; they are expressed through drawings and short writings, and are inserted at the end of each meeting in the Memory Box.

Video Visit



If children are unable to visit a family member in prison because of distance, cost, sickness or other difficulties, the solution may be a Video Visit. www.shineforkids.org.uk



SHINE for Kids®

support hope inspire nurture empower

CHILDREN LIVING IN PRISON

LES ENFANTS VIVANT EN PRISON / NIÑOS Y NIÑAS QUE VIVEN EN LA CÁRCEL

Until when can children stay in prison with their parents?

0 Years	 
	Norway and many States in the USA
1 Year	
	Romania
1.5 Years	  
	Nigeria, the Republic of Korea and Iceland
2 Years	  
	Chile, Israel and South Africa
3 Years	    
	Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Kyrgyzstan and Malaysia
4 Years	  
	Argentina, Canada and Kenya
5 Years	 
	Mauritius and Niger
6 Years	   
	Cambodia, India, Mexico and Turkey

Decisions on allowing children to live in prison are difficult and practice varies widely. In many cases, age limits can be extended if this is in the best interests of the child.

"CHILDREN LIVING IN PRISON ARE NOT PRISONERS AND SHOULD NOT HAVE THE SAME RESTRICTIONS AS PRISONERS."



"Dreaming of Freedom" by Mohammad Saba'neh, Palestine.
www.cartoonmovement.com

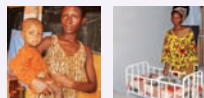
"MY BABY'S GOING OUT BEFORE ME. I'VE STILL GOT ANOTHER 18 MONTHS TO GO, AFTER THAT I'LL BE DEPORTED. I'M WORRIED I'LL LOSE MY BABY."

"CHILDREN SHOULD NOT LIVE IN PRISONS FOR LONGER THAN THE AGE OF 3, BECAUSE AFTER THAT THEY BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THEIR SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT AND MIGHT LOOK UP TO THE PRISON GUARDS MORE THAN TO THEIR OWN MOTHERS."

SLEPPDEUTSCHE.DE, "MIT MAMA IM GEFÄHRSNIS",
WWW.SLEPPDEUTSCHE.DE 06 JUNE 2010.

BEST PRACTICE

Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE)



Children living with their mothers in a rehabilitation cell in prison in Côte d'Ivoire and in Mali. www.bice.org

Illustrations For Children



"Digging", Enay Özbeke, Turkey. www.cartoonmovement.com

LIVING APART FROM PARENTS IN PRISON

VIVRE SÉPARÉS DE PARENTS QUI SONT EN PRISON / VIVIR SEPARADOS DE PADRES QUE ESTÁN EN LA CÁRCEL



Thailand, between Pattani and Bangkok. Enabled by ICRC, families from Thailand's deep south visit their jailed relatives in Bangkok.

Not all children stay in contact with their imprisoned parent:

"When somebody takes a parent away, you feel like you don't have nobody. You feel like, 'Hey, I'm left all alone in the world, so I can do whatever I want.'"

"YOU FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE ANYONE."



Afghanistan, Shibergan. A family replies to a Red Cross message received from a relative detained in Guantanamo.

"Young people feel like they were robbed. We all have a right to have a parent to take care of us. But that was ripped away. Whether it was justified by society's needs doesn't matter to them. They just know they don't have their mother anymore. I don't have my dad anymore. There's nobody who belongs to me, so therefore, I don't belong to anybody. I think that has got to be the worst thing. It's like being a displaced person, disconnected from anything that looks like the norm."

"I WAS 9 WHEN HE WENT IN. NOW I'M 11. IT MAKES ME KIND OF ANGRY AND SAD. IT'S HARD THAT I REALLY DON'T GET TO SPEND ANY TIME WITH HIM. I WISH HE COULD GET HIS LIFE STRAIGHTENED OUT."

ANDREW

ZEH, AMSTUTZ, "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?", 2011, GOOD BOOKS.



Sao Paulo Capital Penitentiary for Women, Sao Paulo, Brazil, April 2010

A bad second marriage to a foreigner found this woman and her three daughters returning home to South Africa with nothing. A chance meeting with a Nigerian produced an opportunity to collect drugs from Brazil. She made the trip, telling her children she had a job interview and would be away from home for a week. She spoke to them for the first time 7 months after arriving in prison. They still think she is working abroad. They are being cared for by her sister as well as her own four children.

(From the series 'Traffickers - Women in Prison in Brazil for International Drug Trafficking' by Jackie Dew Mathews/www.jackiedewmathews.com)

BEST PRACTICE

Children's Villages in China

Sun Village in China has been dedicated to providing foster care and education for the children of convicts for over 14 years. www.sunvillage.com.cn

Aswasa Bhavan



The Alliance of Corrections India is a non-profitable organization dedicated to helping prisoners children.

Aswasa Bhavan, India. www.aswasa-bhavan.org

Illustrations For Children



Barnardo's, "It's a tough time for everyone," Northern Ireland. www.barnardos.org.uk

STIGMATISATION OF CHILDREN WITH PARENTS IN PRISON

STIGMATISATION DES ENFANTS DONT LES PARENTS SONT EN PRISON / LA ESTIGMATIZACIÓN DE NIÑOS Y NIÑAS QUE TIENEN SUS PADRES EN LA PRISIÓN



"It's hard to keep a secret from everybody."



"Are you ok?"
"Yes."



"I took the children out of [their home town] until everything calmed down. The story was all over the papers in New Zealand and back in [prisoner's country of origin]. During the children's social studies class the children's teacher held up a newspaper's front page as part of the class. The teacher was talking about what makes a good headline etc. The headline of the newspaper was about [him]."

"Many children in our society are separated from their parents. Those who have a parent or parents in prison often experience a greater level of stigma and shame. Those feelings are not necessarily triggered by overt expressions from other people." Zehr, Amstutz, "What Will Happen To Me?", 2011, Good Books.

"IT'S HARD TO KEEP A SECRET FROM EVERYBODY."



"I LIKE TO VISIT MY MOTHER. I WRITE TO HER SOMETIMES. I KEEP THE LETTERS. SHE DRAWS PICTURES AND GRANDMA KEEPS THEM FOR ME. I'D RATHER NOT TALK TO OTHERS AT SCHOOL ABOUT IT."

TYLER

ZEHR, AMSTUTZ, "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?", 2011, GOOD BOOKS.

BEST PRACTICE

Working Sheets For Children



A book for counselors, social workers, psychologists and teachers who work with children who have a parent in prison. Topics include: Understanding what happened, building a support system, dealing with shame, handling angry feelings and planning for the future.

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Illustrations For Children



Barnardo's, "It's a tough time for everyone."
Northern Ireland, www.barnardos.org.uk

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH PARENTS IN PRISON

L'EDUCATION DES ENFANTS DONT LES PARENTS SONT EN PRISON / EDUCACIÓN DE NIÑOS Y NIÑAS QUE TIENEN SUS PADRES EN LA PRISIÓN



"Open Prisons" in India
In India, there are "Open Prisons" where a prisoner may be diverted after completing a third of his life sentence and where he sets up his own life in an open camp or village. He lives with his family and his children can go to the local community school. ("Open Prisons in India", PRAJA Penal Reform and Justice Association)."

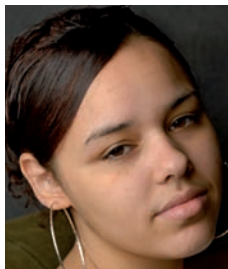


"Children with incarcerated parents are five to six times more likely to be incarcerated when they become adults."



"You don't have a mum to drop you off in the morning or to be in a car with you and sing along to all the songs on the radio. Or be with you on mother's day and give you hugs at night. You don't have that. Some people have it really easy – they have their family with them all the time. I want to have the same thing, but I don't." Anjelica

"LIFE WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT."



"IF MY PARENTS HADN'T BEEN IN PRISON, I WOULD HAVE BEEN GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL THIS YEAR, AND DOING ALL THE OTHER STUFF KIDS DO INSTEAD OF GROWING UP TOO FAST. BECAUSE I WASN'T IN SCHOOL, I WAS LIVING ON MY OWN ON THE STREETS AND I THOUGHT THAT SOMEBODY WOULD KILL ME. I THOUGHT I'D BE DEAD. BUT I'M STILL STANDING. WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH HAS MADE ME WHO I AM TODAY."

BRITTANY

ZEHR, AMSTUTZ, "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?", 2011, GOOD BOOKS.

BEST PRACTICE

Stories For Children



Storybook Dads is a UK charity that records imprisoned fathers reading to their children in a bid to maintain meaningful contact between parent and child as well as to improve literacy and a love of reading in both father and child. www.storybookdads.org.uk

Art By Children



Working Wonders is all about children's creativity, it allows them to use their ideas and express them. It was developed from two projects which took place at Cloverhill Remand Prison Visitors' Center (Ireland) where children came to visit.

Illustrations For Children



"Le tonton de Max et Lili est en prison"
collection AINSI VA LA VIE ans Editions Calligram.
Auteur: Dominique De Saint-Mars, Illustrateur: Sergé Bloch

RELEASE AND REINTEGRATION OF PARENTS AFTER IMPRISONMENT

REMISE EN LIBERTÉ ET RÉINSERTION DES PARENTS APRÈS L'EMPRISONNEMENT/LA PUESTA EN LIBERTAD Y LA REINSERCIÓN SOCIAL DE LOS PADRES



"When the news came in that she was on her way home, I can't even explain how it felt. I can see myself now, jumping around. It's exciting just to think back on it."

"She was just born when he went into prison. She hardly knows him. For her it is like having to accept a stranger in the house."



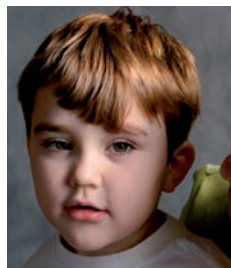
"Sometimes when I think about him I do miss him. He says that when he gets out he's going to spend all this time with me. But he can't make up for ten years like that. He's gonna come out, and you think I'll listen to him? I'm afraid that when he comes out and I let him back into my life, he might go back in. It really scares me."



"You have to try to move forward again; to look toward the future. But it's hard to look toward the future when you still got pain holding you back."

"She was three when he went in. She is now 13 years. He still thinks of her as "my baby." He cannot accept the clothes she wears and decisions she makes. There is need for family counseling."

"I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW IT FELT."



JACOB: MOMMY, REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE IN JAIL? I WAS REALLY, REALLY SAD. SAD THAT YOU DIDN'T COME HOME. I LOVE YOU.

LISA, JACOB'S MOTHER: I'M VERY LUCKY AND FORTUNATE. I MEAN, THIS KID LOVES ME! HE WON'T LET ME OUT OF HIS SIGHT. HE SAYS, "MAMA, WHY DID YOU GO TO JAIL?" I SAY, "I WASN'T BEING GOOD, JACOB; THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS."

ZEHR, ARNSTUTZ, "WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?", 2011, GOOD BOOKS.

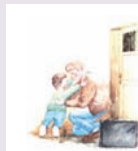
BEST PRACTICE

Time's Up: A Reintegration Toolkit For Families

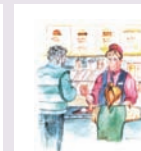


Family Group Decision-making for Reintegration (FGDMR) is a restorative practice that uses a family group conference to prepare a family-based reintegration plan. The family is mentored by a community mentoring team for up to one year, post release, ensuring a successful family and community reintegration plan. Canadian Families and Corrections Network. www.cfn.org

Illustrations For Children



"Quand la punition sera terminée, tout ira mieux dans la vie."



"Elle recommence sa vie à l'extérieur." "Elle recommence sa vie à l'extérieur." "Elle recommence sa vie à l'extérieur."

La Fonds Houtman, "Petit Tom en visite."
Belgium, www.petit-tom.be