

A BILLOF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

Right #5: *"I have the right to speak with, see and touch my parent."*

Resources

“Prison visits matter. Children and parents will tell you again and again how important it is that they see each other, and research backs them up. Consistent, ongoing contact reduces the strain of separation, lowers recidivism, and is the single most important factor in determining whether a family will reunify after a prison term.”

Bernstein, Nell, All Alone in the World, The New Press, New York (2005) p. 76

“Parent-child visitation is a critical intervention following forced separations, such as those that occur when a child is removed from the home by child welfare authorities or when a parent is arrested. Extensive reviews of the current and historical child welfare literature support the importance of frequent, regular parent-child visitation following separation.”

Gabel, Katherine and Johnston, Denise ed., Children of Incarcerated Parents, Lexington Books, New York, NY (1995) p.138

“Family visits are widely recognized as an important tool in prison management. The idea is that visitation can contribute to correctional goals by modulating the average prisoner’s disposition, improving his deportment, and enhancing the prospect of his rehabilitation by cementing tenuous family links.”

Travis, Jeremy and Visher, Christy, ed., Prisoner Reentry and Crime in America, Cambridge University Press, New York, NY (2005), p. 166