

## Children with Incarcerated Parents

“Every Day Counts” Conference

By: Kelly Rath

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## What We Believe to be True

- Visitation directly correlates with success upon reentry.
- Children generally benefit from seeing their parents.
- There are upsides to working with incarcerated parents.

## Child Welfare Concurrs

- Contact must be beneficial
- Trauma must be supported
- Contact with parents assists in case planning
- Contact is part of DHS Practice Model and should be prioritized

## Rights of Children of Incarcerated Parents

Children of incarcerated parents have a right to speak with, see, and touch their parent when it is appropriate and safe.

*Children of Incarcerated  
Parents Bill of Rights*

Implemented in Oregon under  
SB 241 2017 Legislative Session



## Child Welfare & the Rights of Children

Children have the right to have safe and consistent contact with their parent regardless of that parent's location.

### From Policy

Maintaining family contact and regular visitation is the single most important factor in supporting a child's attachments to his or her parents, siblings and other family members and can lessen both the child's and the parents' anxiety about the child being placed in substitute care.

## What Does Research Say?

Parent-child visitation is one of the most important elements to ensure the well-being of children when their parent is incarcerated.



*(Child Protection Best Practices Bulletin)*

## Incarcerated Parents:

### A New Perspective



Despite challenges of incarceration, parents in custody are generally:

- Motivated to change.
- Practicing sobriety.
- Receiving care for mental and physical illness.
- Held accountable for prosocial behavior.
- Have stability of housing, food, and employment.

## How Do We Connect Incarcerated Parents and Their Children?

- Technology
  - Visiting at Prison
  - Programming

# Technology

- Video Interactive Phone Calls
- Instant Messaging
- Email
- Phone Calls
- Tablets



## Technology: Telmate and Access



# Visitation – Types of Visits

- Traditional
- Event
- Enhanced



## Visitation Rule: OAR 291-127

### Standard Across Facilities

- Visitor eligibility requirements
- Visitor application process
- Point-based limits on # visits allowed per month
- Visitor security screening before entry
- Child-friendly environment
- Allowed physical contact
  - Brief kiss at beginning and end of visit
  - Hand holding
  - Holding children ≤ 8 years
- Dress Code
- Restrictions on exchange of objects
- Responsibility for children supervision
- No firearms, explosives, alcohol, drugs, etc.
- Must consume or dispose vending machine items during visit
- Limit on amount of change/tokens in visitor's possession
- No loitering

### Things That May Differ Between Facilities

- Visiting hours, length of visits, and place of visits (posted at each institution)
- Number of visiting days/week and which days
- Schedule visits in advance for AICs in special housing
- The number and types of enhanced visits available at each institution

## Professional or Therapeutic Visits

**OAR 291-127-0280(3)**

### Professional and Therapeutic/Programming Visits

- Visitation for nonsocial purposes by attorneys; criminal justice agency representatives; state, local or other public or government agencies; or for therapeutic or programming purposes
- Approved in advance by facility superintendent (usually during regular visiting hours)
- Must present credentials/identification at visiting desk.
- Zero (0) visiting point deduction

## Professional or Therapeutic Visits

HKH2

**OAR 291-127-0280(3)**

### Professional and Therapeutic/Programming Visits

- With prior approval, certain articles may be brought into the visiting area by attorneys and representatives from other criminal justice and government agencies.
- All articles will be searched for contraband.

What	Approval Required
Necessary documents or paperwork for exchange with the person in custody	Visiting Staff
Computers, tape recorders, and other electronic devices.	Superintendent

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**HKH2** Want to call out the specific section of the rule that addresses professional visits so they know how a DHS worker schedules a visit at the institution

Hodney Kelly H, 6/21/2018



## Scheduling Legal/Professional Calls

- Schedule in advance.
- Legal Calls - Call the facility main line for the scheduling point of contact.
- DHS Worker Staff Calls:
  - **Men** – Correctional Counselor
  - **Women** – Comprehensive Counselor +
    - Minimum Facility - Family Preservation Project assistance
    - Medium Facility – Family Advocate assistance

## Scheduling Professional Calls and Visits

The screenshot shows the Oregon Department of Corrections website. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Contact', 'About Us', 'Visiting', and 'Careers'. The main heading is 'Visiting: Guidelines and restrictions for visiting an inmate'. Below this, the breadcrumb trail shows 'Visiting > Professional Visits'. The 'Professional Visits' section is highlighted with a red circle. The page content includes a 'Professional Visit and Communication Guide' and a 'Professional Visiting' section with the following requirements:

- Inmate's name and SID number
- Provide the names of all persons attending the visit (i.e., attorney, investigator, law clerk, etc.) All visitors will require a background check as noted below.

Enhanced Visiting Opportunities:  
*Coffee Creek TACE*



Enhanced Visiting Opportunities:  
*SCI Weekly Family Visits*



Enhanced Visiting Opportunities:  
*PRCF Summer Barbeque*



Enhanced Visiting Opportunities:  
*SRCI Kids Camp*



# Becoming a Visitor

Visiting  
Guidelines and restrictions for visiting an inmate

Visiting

**VISITING**

- [Become a Visitor](#)
- [Visiting Guidelines](#)
- [Arriving at the Facility](#)
- [Visiting Hours](#)
- [Visiting Alerts](#)

### Introduction

This section covers general guidelines for **regular visiting**. If visiting an inmate in special housing, there are additional restrictions and prior scheduling is required. **Contact your facility for assistance.**

For more information on visiting, please see the [Friends & Family Handbook](#) or the [Visiting Rule](#). For information on professional visits, see the [Professional Visit and Communication Guide](#).

### Visiting Checklist

Below is a quick checklist of what to bring and what not bring for your visit. For more details, see our [Visiting Guidelines](#).

**IMPORTANT: Avoid wearing ANY blue clothing to your visit. Inmates in Oregon Department of Corrections facilities wear blue, so for security reasons, visitors will not be allowed into the facility if they are wearing blue and/or denim clothing.**

#### What to Bring for Your Visit

- Identification
- Appropriate clothing
- Quarters
- Emergency medications
- Photos to share
- Approved items for your infant (if applicable)
- Metal Detector Medical Exception Form (if applicable)

#### What to Leave at Home or in a Facility Locker

- Non-emergency medications, prescribed or non-prescribed, are not allowed in the visiting room.

**DOC Visiting**  
<https://www.oregon.gov/doc/visiting/Pages/home.aspx>

# Oregon Offender Search

Oregon Offender Search

Oregon Offender Search

Type in either the completed name of the person for whom you would like to search, or enter partial names, leaving other name fields empty. Partial name searches are possible using an asterisk (\*) for unknown portions of names.

ie: Johns\* to match 'Johnson' and 'Johnsen'  
 St\*on to match 'Stenson', 'Stocton', and 'Stevenson'

First:  Middle:  Last:   
 SID Number:

DOC website/Oregon Offender Search or <http://docpub.state.or.us/OOS/intro.jsf>

## Enhanced Visiting Information - DOC Social Media

The screenshot shows the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) website and its social media profile. The website header includes navigation links: Home, Contact, About Us, Visiting, and Careers. The main content area features the DOC logo and the text "Department of Corrections Welcome to the Oregon Department of Corrections". Below this is a "Links" section with "Social Media" links for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and a Blog. To the right is a Twitter feed for @ORCorrections, featuring a tweet about the Coffey Creek Correctional Facility and the Willamette National Forest, along with a "New to Twitter?" sign-up prompt.

## Programming: Intake Assessment

- Adults in custody receive two assessment scores (risk and criminogenic needs) that help determine their custody level and correctional case plan.
- Programming and resources are made available in accordance with a person's risk levels—low, medium, or high.



HKH3

## Programming: The Role of Counselors

- Counselors as change agents
- First point of contact except for non-DHS legal and professional calls/contacts.
- Caseloads and programming availability based on risk and criminogenic level of need.



## Programming: Parenting Inside Out (PIO)

A program of the Pathfinders Network, PIO focuses on:

- Healthy adult relationships,
- Co-parenting,
- Problem solving,
- Non-violent discipline,
- Positive reinforcement, and
- Monitoring



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**HKH3** This may need to be updated based on the new CCM direction?  
Hodney Kelly H, 6/21/2018

## Additional Programs

- Family First - OSCI/OSP
- Families Aiding In Rehabilitation - TRCI
- Family Preservation Project –CCCF
- Pregnancy and Post-Partum Support
- Dads For Life Camp - SRCI
- Others



## Other Programming Options:

- Education;
- Residential treatment (last 6 months);
- Religious Services;
- Reentry Curricula & Pre-Release Contact;
- Mental, Physical, and Chronic Disease Health Care;
- Case-Management;
- Work;
- Incentive Activities



RKA1

## Family Advocate for Mothers

- Family Advocacy Services for DHS-Involved AICs
  - Participation in hearings
  - Facilitated calls to caseworker, attorney, child therapist, Citizen Review Board
- Family Engagement Services
  - Researching contact orders
  - Resolving communication and visitation barriers
- Family Support Services
  - Participation in caregiver planning
  - Family Resources
  - Arrange video visits for DHS



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## Programs for Specific Inmates

Talk to the Adult in Custody and the Correctional Counselor for more detailed information on what opportunities are available at each location.



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**RKA1** Get new name/contact info  
Raths Kelly A, 6/14/2018

## Contact Information:



Kelly Raths, Administrator  
Policy and Business Services

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