

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Missouri Department of Corrections Creates Helpline for Offenders with Substance Abuse Problems

It's an unfortunate fact that many offenders have substance abuse problems. It is also very evident that this takes a heavy toll on not only the offender, but the family and friends of the offender as well. Family members and other loved ones can be a source of strength and support in helping an offender to overcome addiction, but they can also become part of the problem by ignoring the issue or even further enabling or supporting the offender's substance abuse problem. Offenders with substance abuse problems will rarely listen to their closest and dearest loved ones, and they certainly will not be willing to go to correctional professionals for help. We also know that family and friends of offenders with substance abuse problems do not want their loved one to get into even more trouble by reporting them to law enforcement or correctional staff.



To address this issue, the Missouri Department of Corrections is initiating a Substance Abuse Helpline through our Department's Constituent Services Office. Family and friends may call this helpline during normal business hours to request assistance for their loved one. These calls will be handled confidentially and professionally and with the commitment of our department to offer help for the offender's substance abuse needs. It is important to understand the offender will not be disciplined for any referrals made. The Constituent Services staff will not provide offender or family counseling, however, will be able to pass on concerns that an offender may be struggling and in need of help to staff who are able to provide on-site support and assistance to the offender. Requests for assistance may be made via email at doc.constsrv@doc.mo.gov, via telephone at (573) 526-2695, or in writing addressed to the Missouri Department of Corrections Constituent Services Office, P.O. Box 236, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

It is our hope that family and friends will utilize this helpline to start their loved one on a path for help. The stakes of allowing substance abuse to continue are too high. Call for help and then be there for support.

Three Ways to Receive INSIDE OUT

· View a copy on the department's website: www.doc.mo.gov · To receive a copy electronically, e-mail constituentservices@doc.mo.gov with "NEWSLETTER" in the subject line · To receive a copy via mail, call (573) 526-2695 or write to Missouri Department of Corrections, Constituent Services Office, P.O. Box 236, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Offender Visiting Procedure Changes



From time to time, the department makes a review of existing procedures to ensure they are as consistent as possible from site to site and to identify best practices for implementation department-wide. After careful review over the past year, the department's Offender Visiting Procedure, IS13-3.1, has been modified and has had some fairly significant changes. The goal of this review was to incorporate uniform visiting practices throughout the department that also promoted a viable, safe and enjoyable visiting program for offenders and their visitors. It should be recognized that every facility may slightly modify their

visiting program's standard operating procedures based upon their offender population, staffing and structural differences. Offenders may review the procedure, in its entirety in the institutional library or postings throughout the facility.

Here is a quick overview of the modifications made to that procedure, which is effective October 15, 2012.

- * Each offender may request to have a visitor designated as a primary support person. To achieve that designation, the visitor must have played a significant role in an offender's life prior to incarceration, serving in the role as a mother or father (i.e. foster parent, etc.);
- * While diagnostic centers may continue to grant temporary visiting privileges, this will no longer be allowed at main line institutions until the visitor has completed all required security checks;
- * Each facility will allow a maximum of 3 adult visitors and up to 3 children, under the age of 5, at one time. Additional visitors may be considered via a special visit request by the offender or as room permits, by the institutions standard operating procedures;
- * All facilities will begin processing visitors at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. which is 30 minutes before the scheduled visiting period begins. Visitors may arrive on the parking lot at those times;
- * Visitors with potentially contagious illness may be restricted from visiting;
- * Offenders may make changes to their visiting lists only during the months of April and October of each year;
- * Visitors who are removed from one offender's visiting list cannot be added to another offender's visiting list for a minimum of 6 months, unless they are an immediate family member;
- * All child visitors, aged 13 years and above, must have a valid school photo identification card or a state Department of Revenue identification card or license;
- * Newborns may visit for up to six months without a social security card, but must then provide that documentation to continue visiting; (continued)

Offender Visiting Procedure Changes (continued)

- * Cell phones, pagers and similar items may no longer be brought into the facility and stored in lockers. They must remain secured in the visitor's vehicle;
- * A maximum of \$50.00, per adult visitor, may be brought for each visit. No offender is allowed to handle cash unless special permission is granted;
- * Scrubs will no longer be issued to visitors who arrive inappropriately dressed. Visitors will be responsible for ensuring they are properly dressed upon arrival;
- * In addition to current rules regarding dress, visitors may not wear non-prescription sunglasses into the visiting room, wear clothing that promotes violence, and may not visit if their undergarments are visible. Visitors may wear jewelry unless the item(s) present a direct and obvious security threat;
- * Food visits have been standardized department wide, and all sites will now allow home-cooked or vendor-purchased foods. If the food is prepared at home, it may be brought in up to four clear plastic food containers no larger than 9" x 9" x 4". Vendor foods must be in the original vendor container, but glass, metal, aluminum and foil are not allowed. Visitors must provide their own paper, plastic or styrofoam plates and plastic utensils. Fresh fruit, Jell-O, ice cream and beverages are not allowed;
- * Children's birthday celebrations may be held for children aged 12 and under. The offender may schedule the event in advance to allow a vendor-purchased cake for the celebration. The cake may be a single-layered cake only, no larger than 12" x 16". It may be decorated with icing only; candies, sprinkles, candles or other decorations are not allowed. The cake must be brought in the original vendor cardboard or see-through plastic container;
- * The requirements for special visits have also been standardized department-wide. A special visit may be requested by an offender, five days in advance, via the Special Visit Request Form obtained from their classification staff. A special visit may be considered when the visitor has traveled more than 250 miles one way or in cases when there are other special circumstances (i.e. the offender has not received a visit in one year or more and the visitor wishes to visit during both visiting blocks, there is terminal illness of the offender or a family member, the offender is on sleeper status, etc.); and
- * A visit may be terminated for use of unacceptable language, loud or boisterous talk, cursing, threatening or rude gestures toward staff or others, or anything that is considered morally offensive to others.

Did You Know?

Did you know offenders of the Department of Corrections consume approximately 81,500 loaves of bread each month, drink 44,500 gallons of milk, and eat about 21,000 pounds of ground beef? By buying in bulk, the department is able to keep food costs low; the average raw food cost per offender per day is \$2.40.

Offenders who have questions about these changes may discuss it with their classification staff. Visitors may inquire of the institutional visiting liaison.

Offender Transfers

Over the past months many requests have been received asking that an offender be considered for a hardship transfer to a facility that is nearer to the family. While the department does try to house offenders as close to the offender's emergency contact as possible, this cannot always occur due to lack of available

bedspace, safety issues, treatment and/or program needs of the offender. Please encourage the offender to maintain contact with their classification staff about transfer requests, and to always keep their emergency contact updated to ensure the latest information is available.



Family Tip

Incarceration alone is a big stress on families. Don't hold on to unnecessary obligations or responsibilities for your incarcerated loved one if it causes you additional stress or financial worries. Let it go and do not feel guilty about those choices.

U.S. Savings Bond Program Ends

Effective January 1, 2012, offenders are no longer able to purchase United States savings



bonds through the Offender Finance Services Office. This action resulted after an announcement by the Bureau of Public Debt that paper savings bonds will no longer be sold to the public except through electronic transactions. The Offender Finance Services Office is researching other ways for offenders to earn interest on their funds while incarcerated, and will keep the offender population notified of any new opportunities that may arise.

International Calls

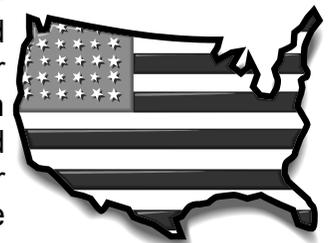
Offenders within the Missouri Department of Corrections are now authorized to make international telephone calls, effective February 1, 2012. The costs for



these calls are \$1.00 for the first minute and .50¢ for every minute thereafter. These calls must be made through a debit account and cannot be made as a collect call.

Interstate Compact Transfers

From time to time requests are received from offenders or their families who ask that an individual be considered for transfer to another state for convenience purposes. While the



Missouri Department of Corrections does participate in the Interstate Corrections Compact, convenience transfers are not approved due to budgetary restraints. Transfers may be considered in high-profile or high-risk cases, but out of state transfers are rare.