VISITATION AND PARENT AND CHILDREN RELATIONSHIP

University of Minnesota Extension
Children, Youth & Family Consortium
Traumatic Stress Series
Unbarred: Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration
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MN DOC Visiting Program

- Purpose is intended to develop and maintain healthy family and community relationships.
- Schedules are available at http://www.doc.state.mn.us/offenders/visiting.htm.
- No visiting on State recognized holidays (except at Willow River and Togo Challenge Incarceration Program, if the holiday falls on a regularly-scheduled visiting day).

MN DOC Visiting Program

- Visiting is a “privilege”.
- All visitors must apply, undergo a background check and be approved.
- Parents may apply for minor’s with an accompanying birth certificate if they are listed on the certificate as parent.
- A guardian must provide a notarized minor escort form with documents proving guardianship.
MN DOC Visiting Enhancements

- Staff does its best to make visits pleasant by using a friendly tone of voice when greeting and interacting with children and families.
- Each facility sets visiting hours based on demands and experience statistics.
- Some facilities are more child friendly than others. MCF-RC has a T.V. with the Disney Channel, a book area and a play area with children's card and board games.
- Video visitation that will enable families to visit over their home computers is in the near future plans.

MN DOC Visiting Challenges

- Minimizing disruptions to other visitors, particular when children are participating in extended visits.
- Maintaining guidelines regarding no contact guidelines and inappropriate contact (i.e., kisses on the lips).
- Newer and changing staff during peak visiting days.

Visitation and Parent-Child Relationships Discussion Instructions

- Divide into groups.
  - Birth to 3
  - 4 to 10 years olds
  - 11 to 17 year olds
- Read through the visitation rules.
- Discuss in your group creative ways to support the parent-child relationship.
- Work within the current visitation rules.
- Share
Visitation and Parent-Child Relationships

☐ Report Outs
☐ Questions
☐ Contact Information

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