

Family Services Advocate

Identifying, supporting and advocating for the unique needs and rights of children with incarcerated parents

Eligibility

Children ages zero through 18 who live in Lancaster or Lebanon Counties are eligible for case management if they have an incarcerated parent.

Services

The Family Services Advocate meets with the children and their caregiver to discuss the needs of the family, such as food, clothing and shelter.

- Referrals are made to resources in the community to address the family's needs.
- Advocacy and support occur to maintain a connection and relationship with the incarcerated parent.
- On-going case management supports the child until the parent is released from prison.

Outcomes

- Through early intervention and supports, the effects of trauma experienced by these children will be lessened.
- The early identification of the needs of both caregivers and children will lessen the child's risk of abuse.
- Recognizing and addressing early behavior problems will reduce the frequency of future incarcerations.
- The children will be supported in maintaining healthy relationships with their incarcerated parent, which reduces the trauma of separation.



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Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Bill of Rights

In 2003 the San Francisco Partnership for Incarcerated Parents published the following Bill of Right for children of incarcerated parents. The Bill of Rights recognizes that children's needs extend well beyond physical comfort and security.

- I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest.
- I have the right to be heard when decisions are made about me.
- I have the right to be considered when decisions are made about my parent.
- I have the right to be well cared for in my parent's absence.
- I have the right to speak with, see and touch my parent.
- I have the right to support as I face my parent's incarceration.
- I have the right not to be judged, blamed or labeled because my parent is incarcerated.
- I have the right to a lifelong relationship with my parent.

Compass Mark's mission is to prevent addiction through education, skill building, and community mobilization.

The Family Services Advocate is a program of Compass Mark, a non-profit organization providing addiction prevention services in Lancaster, Lebanon, and Chester Counties.

Lancaster Office
1891 Santa Barbara Dr., Suite 104
Lancaster, PA 17601 / (717) 299-2831

Email: info@compassmark.org
Online: www.compassmark.org



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