

Children of Incarcerated Parents Program (CHIPP)

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Division of Family Permanency Services
NYC Administration for Children's Services
150 William Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10038

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For more information or to register for a
parent/child visit or case conference, please
contact CHIPP by phone at 212-341-4883
or e-mail us at CHIPP@acs.nyc.gov.



CHIPP: Out of Sight, Not Out of Mind

What is CHIPP?

Located within the Division of Family Permanency Services, the ACS Children of Incarcerated Parents Program (**CHIPP**) was created in June 2000 to provide various services, support and technical assistance to cases involving a parent or youth who is incarcerated. CHIPP was formed with the understanding that in most cases:

- Parents continue to play a significant role in their children's lives, despite their incarceration;
- Parents, who are incarcerated, can assist and need to be involved with permanency planning (especially if they are the discharge resource);
- Parents, who are incarcerated, are deeply missed by their children and facilitating parent-child contact can greatly help children.

What Services Does CHIPP Offer?

Locating Parents:

- CHIPP staff can help locate parents and track their whereabouts within the criminal justice system;
- CHIPP staff can help locate youth who may be in the adult criminal justice system. If you know a young person whose whereabouts are unknown, or who you know has been arrested, he/she may be in the adult criminal justice system;
- You can also locate a parent or youth in the criminal justice system by calling the three different correctional systems they may be in: City, State or Federal. Before calling, please be sure to have the parent's/youth's name, date of birth and any known aliases.

NYC Department of Corrections (DOC): 718-546-0700
NYS Department of Corrections (DOCS): 518-457-5000
Federal Department of Corrections: 202-307-3198

Please call CHIPP for more information:

(212) 341-4883

E-mail: CHIPP@acs.nyc.gov

Visits & Other Forms of Contact

- Every Tuesday CHIPP facilitates parent-child and sibling visits, as well as case conferences – including Child Safety Conferences, Family Team Conferences and service plan reviews (SPRs) – on Rikers Island;
- Many times a month CHIPP facilitates parent-child visits and case conferences to State and Federal correctional facilities within greater metropolitan area and surrounding states;
- CHIPP staff can help arrange phone contact and teleconferences with parents. This is particularly helpful in developing or updating a permanency plan, and facilitating parent participation in Family Team Conferences and Service Plan Reviews.

Technical Assistance & Training

- CHIPP offers half-day training to ACS and agency staff and foster parents, including resources such as a handbook and videos. The training covers topics such as how to prepare for visits, children's reactions to visits, working with foster parents, permanency planning with incarcerated parents, related policies and procedures and more.
- CHIPP staff also offer case-specific and general technical assistance.

Additional ACS Resources

- The ACS Office of Advocacy's Parents' & Children's Rights Unit offers a collect call line, (212) 619-1309, for incarcerated parents who have concerns about their children in foster care or ACS case. Parents can also call the regular hotline at (212) 676-9421.
- For visits to upstate facilities, please call (212) 442-5134, (212) 442-5041 (Mothers) or (212) 341-9669 (Fathers).
- Incarcerated Parents can also call CHIPP's new Collect Call Line (212) 341-3322 for visiting concerns only.

Frequently Asked Questions

What Is ACS's Policy Regarding Cases Where The Parent Is Incarcerated?

Parents who are incarcerated (whose children are in foster care) have most of the same rights and responsibilities as other parents whose children are in foster care, including but not limited to: the right to receive visits with their children, to be included in permanency planning, and the to be present at all Family Court dates. Parents who are incarcerated also have the responsibility to update their caseworker about their whereabouts, plan for their children's future, and comply with their service plan (to the extent possible).

Does a Case Planner Have to Facilitate Parent-Child Visits when the parent is incarcerated, even far away?

Yes. If the goal is reunification, and the visits are deemed in the best interests of the child, and the location and procedures of the correctional facility allow for visits, parent-child visits are mandated to occur a minimum of once a month (when feasible). This policy applies within the greater metropolitan area and surrounding states.

How Does ASFA Apply To Cases Where The Parent Is Incarcerated?

While the Adoption & Safe Families Act (ASFA) shortens the timeframe families have to work toward reunification, there are exceptions to filing to terminate the parent's rights (TPR) when this is not in the best interest of the child. One such exception might be that the parent will be released soon, there is a significant bond between parent and child, and it is believed that reunification can happen within a reasonable timeframe. In June 2010, the ASFA Expanded Discretion Law was passed and may apply to some parents whose current or past incarceration was a significant factor in the child remaining in foster care for more than 15 months. All decisions should be case specific and consider the child's best interest. Exceptions to filing for TPR should be clearly documented in the case record. For more information about the new law, please go to the Office of Children and Family Services website, www.ocfs.state.ny.us.