



Does Your Child have a Parent or Carer in the Criminal Justice System?

Where to go for Support and Information in Somerset

It can be a stressful experience when a parent, carer or family member is arrested and enters the criminal justice system. There can be lots of uncertainty and upheaval for you and your family during court appearances and until the final sentencing. This can impact on your children, your relationship, your family's finances and housing, your family's health and well-being.

“The hardest things are that you’ve got to keep the house going, you’ve got to look after your children, financially you’ve got to be independent and then you’ve got to mentally support someone else when you need that support yourself... I want something back for me, but I haven’t got that.”

Partner of a parent in prison

This leaflet provides information on where to go for help and advice in Somerset. **For web links to any of the sites referred to see the reverse of this leaflet.**

Health and well-being

You can contact your **health visitor** or **GP** to talk in confidence about issues concerning your family's health and well-being. A child may struggle to come to terms with the sudden absence of

their parent and may need some support to deal with this.

Family Support Services

getset services can also offer family support. There are five getset service areas within Somerset. Families (with children 0-19yrs) can access a range of support from these hubs and there is a worker designated as CAPO (Children Affected by Parental Offending) Champion who has received training on providing specialist support to your family in each service area.

Please use the number/email address for your area.

getset Mendip:

Tel: 01458833017

getset-mendip@somerset.gov.uk

getset Sedgemoor:

Tel: 01278 446771

getset-sedgemoor@somerset.gov.uk

getset South Somerset:

Tel: 01935 848942

getset-southsomerset@somerset.gov.uk

getset Taunton:

Tel: 01823 322508

getset-taunton@somerset.gov.uk

getset West Somerset and Taunton Deane West:

Tel: 01643 700030

getset-westsomerset&taunton@somerset.gov.uk

Offenders Families Helpline

This organisation supports families of offenders through all the arrest,

“The health visitor knows that dad is in prison... She is supportive.”

Parent

court and prison procedures. This is a freephone number: [0808 808 2003](tel:0808 808 2003)

Support for children

Sometimes it can be difficult for you to talk to your child about what is happening around them. They may want to talk to someone else.

ChildLine is a service for children and young people up to the age of 19 to talk to someone in confidence. All these options are supported by trained counsellors.

The following is available:

- freephone number 0800 1111
- 1-2-1 online chat
- email or use message boards – follow the other links from the page above.

There are a number of resources to help you or your family to talk to your child (no matter what their age) about what is happening and help to explore their feelings about it.

Sesame Street has a free SMART phone APP or the following website: www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/incarceration#

Action for Prisoners and Offenders Families has produced a booklet on

telling the children:

www.pelorous.totallyplc.com/public/cms/287/0/228/9751/The_Outsiders_Telling_the_children.pdf?realName=y2bNbu.pdf

Ormiston have produced “My Special Book” to complete with children on a visit to their parent www.i-hop.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/258/related/1

Keeping in touch

In addition to the changes in circumstances that your family experiences when a parent/carer has been imprisoned, you may have to negotiate the practicalities of keeping in touch with that parent/carer through visits if these are allowed, or through other forms of contact such as phone, email or letterbox contact.

Prison Visiting

The booking of most prison visits is done using an online service.

Use the link below to book:
Visit someone in prison – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk/prison-visits)

Assistance with travel costs for prison visiting

If you are a close relative of the prisoner and you are in receipt of certain benefits you may be able to get financial assistance for your visit to and from the prison.

For the application form visit: www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/contacts/noms/assisted-prison-visits/apv-form.pdf

Prisoners' Families and Friends Service

This organisation provides a freephone helpline for emotional support as well as practical advice regarding prison visits and keeping in touch, transfers, tagging and preparing for release.

Tel. 0808 808 3444

Money Matters

A number of organisations locally and nationally can support with money issues, benefit claims and helping you retain your house. The Somerset Advice Network has links to all the websites of Somerset CAB offices. Turn2us can also support you while the parent is serving their sentence and also upon their release.

Local support in Somerset

IMPACT pathways is an online information hub listing local agencies that can support you with a wide range of needs

linked to parental offending such as drugs and alcohol support services; housing on release; education, training and employment; mental and physical health.

Useful Links

IMPACT pathways

www.impactpathways.org.uk

Turn2us

www.turn2us.org.uk/Your-Situation/A-prisoner

Somerset Advice Network

www.somersetadvice.net/

Childline online chat

www.childline.org.uk/Talk/Chat/Pages/OnlineChat.aspx

Grandparents Plus

For grandparents caring for their grandchildren

www.grandparentsplus.org.uk/families-of-prisoners

Believe in children



Barnardo's

www.barnardos.org.uk

Barnardo's Registered Charity
Nos. 216250 and SC037605

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In partnership with

