



**State of North Carolina
Department of Correction
Division of Prisons**

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Chapter: E
Section: .2300
Title: **Parenting Programs**
Issue Date: 09/08/09
Supersedes: None- New Policy

2301. General

Parenting programs are a part of many prison facilities programs and services made available to inmates. The programs operate under the general guidance of the Division of Prisons Program Services Section, which provides coordination and monitoring of the programs. Prison facilities Program staff coordinate and cooperate with other departments (e.g., Mental Health, Social Work, Education, Chaplaincy staff, etc.) in planning, developing, and operating the parenting programs. The methods of delivering the program are adapted to each facility and are either delivered by full-time prison staff, community college staff, volunteers, procurement through contracts, and/or a combination of all.

2302. Purpose

The purpose of parenting programs is to provide education and skills on parenting, promote and reinforce positive relationships, family values, and mutual support and nurturing among inmates and their spouse/significant other and their children. Parenting programs give the inmate an opportunity to counteract negative family consequences resulting from his or her incarceration and to assist in positive reunification upon the inmate's release. Additionally, the purpose is to improve the prison facility's social environment by providing opportunities for inmates to maintain positive and sustaining contact with their families.

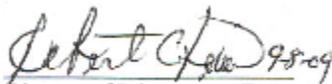
2303. Policy

- (a) Programs entail several components of information, education, and assistance. Each facility that offers the program may provide all or only one or more components of the program. The components that facilities may offer inmates that constitute the type of parenting programs they offer are as follows:
- (1) Parenting skills to maintain or build family relationships while incarcerated and to accomplish age-appropriate communication with his or her children to include, but not limited to, fostering self-esteem, appropriate discipline, sibling rivalry, childhood development stages, etc.
 - (2) Skills for family support such as analyzing family needs, managing a budget, and /or developing skills to cope with change and setting priorities.
 - (3) Family literacy education to provide inmates with information on the

- (4) importance of raising the reading level of children and other family members; motivating family interest in reading and writing to each other; effective tutoring skills, and compiling a list of education resources to assist in family literacy for the inmate as well as his/her family members.
- (5) Substance abuse education and information on the effects of parental use of addictive substances on children along with strategies to break substance abuse addiction, to include the use of and organization of support groups.
- (6) Prenatal care information for expectant mothers such as achieving and/or maintaining physical fitness, developing and/or maintaining a proper diet, evaluating childbirth procedures' options and providing appropriate infant care.

(b) Inmate Selection and Eligibility

- (1) Inmates may be referred for participation by his or her Case Manager. Other appropriate staff may refer the inmate for participation by making a referral for such to the inmate's Case Manager. Inmates may also submit a request to his or her case manager to participate in the program.
- (2) Inmate participation is voluntary. No merit time is given for participation.
- (3) Priority for participation must be given to the inmate who is a parent, grandparent, or a parent-to-be. The inmate should have the desire to become a responsible parent to their children or a desire to mend relationships with their own parents.
- (4) Criminal History: Inmates with sex offenses and/or crimes against children shall not be allowed to participate in a parenting program where the program involves direct and/or indirect contact, sight, hearing and/or communication with a child/children. Inmates with these types of offenses may participate in an "educational only" type parenting program.
- (5) Referrals must be carefully screened by the Case Manager and/or other appropriate staff to ensure that these criteria are met before assignment of an inmate to a parenting program.


Director of Prisons Date

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