

Working Together with Incarcerated Parties

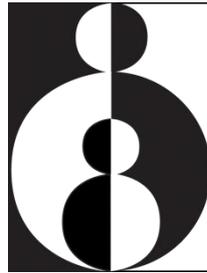
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Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA)

CGLA focuses its legal services on people attempting to rebuild their lives during and after encounters with the criminal justice system.



Originally founded in 1985, Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM) became a program of Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) in July of 2014. As one organization, the CLAIM Program is now better able to provide family law representation, advocacy, and support during and after incarceration, helping to preserve the bonds between mothers and children.



In the United States, 1 out of every 28 children has at least one incarcerated parent.



For children of color, that number is closer to 1 out of every 10 children.

**Parents of minor children held in
the nation's prisons increased by**

79%

between 1991 and midyear 2007

Sending Mail to Incarcerated Litigants

Locate the ID number and facility name and search for “inmate mailing address” at the facility.

Mark envelopes “legal mail” on the outside and include the ID number with the name and mailing address.

NOTE: Allow for extra mailing time due to delays in sending an receipt at facilities.

Envelope Example

Return Address



LEGAL MAIL

John Smith
2014-0531095
PO Box 089002
Chicago, IL 60608

Locating a Litigant's ID Number

Search on the CCDOC website:

<http://www2.cookcountysheriff.org/search2/>

Search on the IDOC website:

<http://www.illinois.gov/idoc/Offender/Pages/InmateSearch.aspx>

Search on the Bureau of Prisons (BoP) website:

<http://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>

Locating Information for CCDOC



may result in the termination or denial of future visits.

To apply for visitation, search for the inmate that you wish to visit below. If you wish to visit more than one inmate, you must submit an application for each inmate. All applicants will be subject to a background check.

Search by Name:

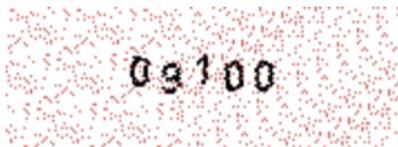
STEP 1: Enter both Last and First names.

Last Name: *Required

First Name: *Required

STEP 2: Enter the security code exactly as displayed in the image.

Security code:



*Required

[new image](#)

Locating Information for CCDOC

Search Results

Match(es) Found For:

Jail I.D.#	Name	Date of Birth	Race	Gender	View details
2014-0531095	Smith, John	09/17/1989	BK	M	
2014-0531095	Smith, John	09/17/1989	BK	M	
2014-0531095	Smith, John	09/17/1989	BK	M	
2014-0313265	Smith, John L	04/28/1965	BK	M	
2014-0313265	Smith, John L	04/28/1965	BK	M	

Locating Information for CCDOC

Individual Inmate Report

Booking #	Inmate Full Name	Date of Birth	Race	Gender	Height	Weight
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2014-0531095	Smith, John		BK	M	600	190
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Booked Date	Housing Location	Visiting Day / Time	Bail Amount
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05/31/2014	DIV16-BC-B3-AA-19	Saturday 1:00p - 4:00p	'NO BOND'
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Charges

720 ILCS 5 24-1.1(a) [1214500]

Next Court Date	Court House Location
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Branch 44

Locating Information on IDOC's Website



M28258 - SMITH, JOHN

Parent Institution: PINCKNEYVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER
Offender Status: IN CUSTODY
Location: PINCKNEYVILLE

[Click here to register for notification on any changes to this offender's custody status](#)

PHYSICAL PROFILE

Date of Birth: 10/18/1993
Weight: 165 lbs.
Hair: Black
Sex: Male
Height: 5 ft. 03 in.
Race: Black
Eyes: Black

MARKS, SCARS, & TATTOOS

TATTOO, FOREARM, RIGHT - CROSS

ADMISSION / RELEASE / DISCHARGE INFO

Admission Date: 04/24/2012
Projected Parole Date: 08/13/2018
Last Paroled Date:
Projected Discharge Date: 08/13/2019

SENTENCING INFORMATION

MITTIMUS:	11CR0877701
CLASS:	X
COUNT:	1
OFFENSE:	ARMED ROBBERY/NO FIREARM
CUSTODY DATE:	05/13/2011
SENTENCE:	10 Years 0 Months 0 Days
COUNTY:	COOK
SENTENCE DISCHARGED?:	NO

Can Incarcerated Litigants Attend Court?

It is possible to petition for a *writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum*. However, *writs* are very costly and are not often granted.

If a *writ* is granted, it is possible to include language asking that the party not be handcuffed if the child is present.

We are currently investigating options for parties to appear telephonically in the future

When Children Don't See a Parent

Children often imagine horrible scenarios when they can't see a parent

Children who don't see a parent can feel unloved, abandoned, or blame themselves

Reunification after incarceration can be more difficult

Parents are less likely to have long-term success

Things to Try and Avoid

■ Telling children that their parent is “a bad person”

■ Telling children that it isn't safe to visit their parent

■ Cutting off all contact, particularly when that parent was previously the primary caregiver

■ Always try to have a next visitation date before a child leaves a visit (including phone visits)

Visiting Parties at Cook County Jail

Cook County Jail is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.

It is best to visit at least an hour before closing

3pm is shift change, and there is often a longer wait for client meetings

Bring your yellow Sheriff's Attorney ID and ARDC card

Visitation at Cook County Jail

Visitation is usually one day per week, with the day varying by division

Sometimes the jail requires proof of authority or a court order to bring a child

Visits are “no contact” visits, meaning they take place through glass.

At one division, visits are often through video monitors

Visitation at Cook County Jail

Division 17 allows for contact visitation between mothers and children on Wednesdays (DCFS) and Saturdays (all others)

Mothers must first take a six-part parenting class before having contact visits

Visits take place in an area called “Bright Spaces” which is built like living room pods

Visitation at IDOC Facilities

■ Visits are generally contact visits

■ Most facilities have books and activities for children

■ Some prisons have special programs where children can spend the day doing activities with their parent

■ Always try to have a next visitation date before a child leaves a visit (including phone visits)

Nicole's Story

Options for Bringing Children to Visitation

Unless parties get along, we generally don't suggest the other parent bring the child

Third parties bringing children for visitation often allow for children to see relatives and half-siblings

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Connections (773.783.9516) has a free bus to women's prisons

Creative Solutions for Visitation

Here are some examples for how we have arranged visitation when the other parent bringing the children is not a realistic option:

Grandparents or step-parents have brought children, often together with their siblings.

Children can use the LSSI monthly bus and with a person to accompany them.

We can arrange a carpool with another family that visited the same prison on a regular basis.

Some of our clients use Project Storybook or "Sending a Hug."

Creative Solutions for Visitation

At Decatur Correctional Center, parties use video conferencing to have video visits with children.

Phone calls have taken place from at therapist's office or from the children's school.

Parents or guardians have signed short-term guardianship forms to an adult sibling to bring the children to visit their parent.

Court orders can include that letters are provided to children and children can respond. Sometimes letters are sent through a third party or a therapist's office.

ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE EASIER TO DO IF INCLUDED IN A COURT ORDER

Authority to Bring Children

At times no paperwork is required. However, whenever a third party is bringing children to visit, it is a good idea to have one of these items:



Recommended Book List for Children of Incarcerated Parents

- *A Visit With Daddy* by Frank M. Black
- *Dad's in Prison* by Sandra Cain and Margaret Speed
- *I Know How You Feel Because This Happened to Me* - Center for Children with Incarcerated Parents, Pacific Oaks College and Children's Programs, 714 West California Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105
- *Just for You – Children with Incarcerated Parents* - Center for Children with Incarcerated Parents, Pacific Oaks College and Children's Programs, 714 West California Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105
- *Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me* by Daniel Beaty
- *Mama Loves Me from Away* by Pat Brisson
- *My Mom Went to Jail* by Kathleen Hodgkins and Suzanne Bergen
- *My Mother and I Are Growing Stronger* by Inez Maury
- Regarding addiction: "*My Dad Loves Me, My Dad Has A Disease*" by Claudia Black
- *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst
- *The Princess Who Went Quiet* by Bianca Diaz (available only through Project Nia)
- *Two in Every Hundred: a special workbook for children with a parent in prison*
- *When Andy's Father Went to Prison* by Martha Hickman
- *When Dad Was Away* by Liz Weir and Karin Littlewood



**HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

**PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT SERVICES
UNIT**

HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

HFS' Division of Child Support Services provides the following services:

- Paternity Establishment – creates a legal relationship between a father and a child by voluntary acknowledgment, genetic testing or court order;
- Support/Medical Order Establishment – creates a child support financial and medical order by administrative (in office) or judicial (in court) order;
- Support Order Modification – changes a current child support order if an individual's financial circumstances have changed;
- Debt Forgiveness Assistance – aids in debt reduction or suspension of arrears owed to the State of Illinois; and
- Parent Support Services – staff dedicated to assisting parents in numerous aspects of Child Support Services.



HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Staff provide an array of programs designed to assist parents – particularly non-custodial parents – in establishing paternity and establishing, enforcing and modifying child support obligations to strengthen families emotionally and financially. With this goal in mind, the following services are available through Parent Support Services:

- Hospital Opportunity for Paternity Establishment (HOPE)
- Paternity Establishment Prison Program (PEPP)
- Project CHILD (Collaboration Helps Inmates Lessen Debt)
- NCP (Non-Custodial Parent) Support Services
- Homeless Veterans Outreach
- Community Outreach/Partnerships



Contact Information

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The Importance of Visitation

Colette Payne, Visible Voices Coordinator and
formerly-incarcerated mother

Shivaun Straub, formerly-incarcerated mother

Questions?