

Synopsis
of Sentencing Commission Proposal
on Inmate Visitation

A great deal of research has demonstrated that if incarcerated individuals can maintain their positive social ties while they are incarcerated, their chances of living law-abiding lives after they are released from prison are significantly improved. For an inmate, visits from family members and other people who are important to him or her, can often have a strong positive impact on the inmate's success during and after his or her incarceration.

At an upcoming meeting of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission on December 20, 2012, the Commission will consider a draft proposal to endorse recommendations to change certain policies and practices of the Department of Corrections, so that opportunities for inmate visitation are expanded and made more accessible.

These recommendations will aim to improve the visiting experience for child and adult visitors, reduce restrictions and increase flexibility regarding the number of people who are approved for visits, investigate new technologies that permit virtual long-distance visiting, and recognize the importance of healthy family relationships - especially with children - to incarcerated fathers as well as mothers, and to their children.

The Commission will hear public comments on inmate visiting policies at a public hearing at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on November 29, 2012 at noon. The Commission will welcome suggestions of specific policies that may enhance positive social ties between inmates and those people who are important positive forces in their lives.