

November 29, 2012

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates
From: Chris Moore, Inmate 270134, Carl Robinson CI

I feel visits are important to inmates and their families because it allows them to bond better emotionally and physically. I believe visits should be available at various times during the day and week, because all visitors have different times in which child care or transportation is available. I think parents should be able to touch their children during the visit so that the child does not feel rejected or unwanted by their parent, which is obviously not the impression we want to give. I wish they would allow us to assist our kids with homework, reading and school lessons during the visits. The best reason for making changes is that family visits shows our children more structure, love, involvement and nurture, nourishing them in the process. Thank you for your time and concern. We appreciate your involvement. Fondly, Chris Moore

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
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From: Jay Quigley, Inmate 304839, Carl Robinson CI

Visitation is important for people to stay close with their families. I have not seen anyone in my family for 18 months due to the restrictive nature of visitation policies. I have never been able to meet my son who will turn 1 year old in a week. I think it is ridiculous that allowing family visits is considered a privilege as opposed to a necessary obligation for families. In some other States rules regarding visitation are more liberal. Restrictive policies make inmates and their families angrier and more disconnected with society. I have nothing positive to look forward to while incarcerated. Jay Quigley

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates
From: Rashon Bulerin, Inmate 262283, Carl Robinson CI

I think that during visits we should be able to hold our children and our loved ones hands. I also believe that inmate placement should be in facilities closer to our families to make it easier for children and families to visit. Many of our families fall apart while we are incarcerated, because distance and restrictions make it difficult for visits and phone calls to happen. Rashon Bulerin

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates
From: Rashard Johnson, Inmate 253878, Carl Robinson CI

I think that policies should be changed so that we can have better visits with our kids. And I feel that prisoners should be housed in facilities closer to their families making it easier on the families to visit. Due to the distance, I have not been able to see my children in two years as I am in Enfield and they live in New London. I believe that we should be able to hold our kids so that they can get to know us. I have never held my youngest child. Thank you. Rashard Johnson

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates
From: James Hunter, Inmate 283722, Carl Robinson CI

Inmates should be housed at facilities closer to their families, making it easier for them to travel to see their loved ones at a safer and closer distance. James Hunter

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates
From: Kenneth Girard, Inmate 177591, Carl Robinson CI

I am writing this note with the hope of bettering my family's visiting experiences. The very worst part of current restrictions is that we are not allowed to hold our children, or hold our spouse's hand during the visits. This is especially necessary for our kids to see that we love and support one another. In trying to rebuild the broken relationships we have caused it is necessary to have a positive visiting experience, allowing us to contribute to the raising of our children strengthening the bands of trust that were broken. Something as simple as holding hands can make a large difference, or for me to hold my child in my lap. That alone would mean the world to him. Please seriously consider these requests, and thank you for your time. Kenneth Girard

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
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From: Richard Harrell, Inmate 208140, Carl Robinson CI

I think that when Correction Officers communicate with our families they could be more respectful, especially with women and children. I believe it would be helpful to allow us to hold and touch our children, and to allow the children in our families that are not blood related to us (step-children, nieces and nephews, etc.) the right to visit. Many of us are the only father figure in those children's lives. Also the procedures for visitors getting into the facilities often make them feel as though they are the criminals. They have done nothing wrong, but are treated as though they have. Seeing our families is often the only positive thing we have to look forward to while incarcerated. Richard Harrell

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
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From: Christopher Godreau, Inmate 231507, Carl Robinson CI

I am currently incarcerated for an 8 year sentence. I am the proud father of four boys and have been married for nine years. I get on average one visit a month. I would get more, but the current restrictions make it so difficult for my family that they feel very uncomfortable coming for a visit. The environment in the visiting rooms is not conducive to a healthy visit. Although I read to my kids every visit, being able to physically interact with our children would be great. My kids just want to climb into my lap and bond with their dad and see me bond with their mom. In the past there were more liberal policies. Most people are not trying to bring in contraband, and in fact we are all strip searched after each visit. What harm would it be to allow us to spend quality time with our loved ones? Thank you for considering these suggestions. Christopher Godreau

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
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From: Samuel Lebron, Inmate 197930, Carl Robinson CI

Some of us get visits by necessity with more than one child. One of my own children is autistic. It is difficult for the moms to manage the children by themselves. Allowing us to touch and hold our kids would help to make visits more productive and useful for the whole family. Even when my wife tries to explain our one child's handicap, she is not listened to by the Correction officers and often treated rudely. Special visiting times, especially in cases like this would be so helpful. Not being able to physically contact your children is so difficult for the inmates and especially the kids. More liberal policies with visitation would make prisoners more positive and less likely to act out. Happier inmates make security less of a problem, not more of a problem. Having crayons, coloring books and children's books would be so helpful. I am sure agencies like Families in Crisis, Inc would be willing to supply those kind of tools. Thank you. Samuel Lebron

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates
From: William Rodriguez, Inmate 297630, Carl Robinson CI

When families enter the visiting areas they are allowed a brief physical greeting, yet are not allowed to touch each other during the visits. I have an 18 month old daughter, who I cannot hold or touch. I am not even able to reach out and touch the hand of my co-parent, to support her and show my child that her parents are in love and supportive of one another and her. There are dividers on the tables which separate the inmates from their families. The families themselves are often treated like criminals by correction staff. That makes no sense at all. Those who do visit, often tell us that they feel uncomfortable because of intimidation from the correction officers. I realize the need for security, yet family members should not be denigrated or made to feel like my crime is their crime. Thank you, William Rodriguez

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates
From: Hector Mercado, Inmate 243170, Carl Robinson CI

I have a 30 month old child who I am barely able to touch during a visit. This is as much a hardship on the children as it is the fathers and mothers. Also the sternness with which they are treated by staff is unnecessary and negative. More flexibility with visitation would be so appreciated by inmates and their families. Please know that even with the inconveniences, visits are very much beneficial for every family. However some modifications would make an even great benefit more enjoyable and helpful for children and parents. Thank you for hearing me out! Hector Mercado

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates
From: Anthony Mickens, Inmate 206137, Carl Robinson CI

Visits are very important because they keep unity among families. They help families stay stronger and less stressed out. Visits help families keep their love strong. No contact visits hampers and distracts the purpose of the visits. Visits make inmates and their families better mentally, give us and them hope and support during incarceration. Visits create a time of happiness for the children, the co-parents, the inmate and the whole family system. Thank you. Anthony Mickens

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission

Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of Corrections
Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates

From: Daniel Rapuano, Inmate 290379, Carl Robinson CI

I receive regular visits from my family for which I am thankful. But every one of my visitors complain about the bad treatment they receive from staff. The process of coming into the prison can be so intimidating, disrespectful and humiliating that it takes away the joy that the visit is intended for. When our children naturally reach out to us they are often reprimanded (and scared) by staff. Changes to these practices would make visits so much more productive. Thank you. Daniel Rapuano

November 28, 2012

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of
Corrections Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates

I feel like these visit is very important
because it help us, and our family to get
throu this hard time that we doing
my baby girl is 5 year old and i have
not ever been out of her life a she is my
world i have been there dont Day 1.

I thank this help family a hold lot
because they can see a feel they kids
and that my our day be so good ~~is~~ and
our life, good because in lock up dont make
me a bad father

Antonio Powell
#324884

Holt

November 28, 2012

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of
Corrections Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates

Visits are important for our kids because, our
kids be very happy to see their father/mother.
We get a brief kiss and hug then, visits are
in my case 2 hours without touching and our
kids will just cry. If our kids don't stop
they will end our visit. Visits are suppose to
be or should be more a time to enter act with
your love ones. ^{It brings more} ~~It brings more~~ stress to us and
our love ones. Visits are more non-contact than
contact. They should be easier less ^{restricted} ~~restricted~~
and aimed to get inmate and family closer. Because
like me, I think family ^{is the} ~~is the~~ key to staying
free. So the closer the better.

TERRY STONE

November 28, 2012

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of
Corrections Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates

TO WHOM THIS MAY ~~CONCERN~~ CONCERN ~~THE~~ I
TERRY STONE INMATE IN CARL ROBINSON C-7
AND ~~ALL~~ ^{BEHALF OF THE} MEMBERS ^{OF} THE INSIDE OUTSIDE
PROGRAM. I WANTED TO VOICE MY OPINION
ON A FEW THINGS CONCERNING THE VISITING
SITUATION WITH THE INMATE AND THEIR
FAMILIES. FIRST AND FOREMOST THE ~~VISITS~~
VISITATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE
INMATES AND THE FAMILY MEMBERS. ITS
A BREATH OF FRESH AIR TO SEE YOUR LOVE
ONES IN THE FLESH AND TO HAVE THAT
CONTACT TO EXPRESS THE LOVE FOR ONE
ANOTHER. IT HELPS ^{AN INMATE} ~~PEOPLE~~ GET THROUGH THE
DAY TO DAY STRESS FROM BEING IN
SUCH AN NEGATIVE ~~ENVIRONMENT~~ AND FOR
THAT FAMILY TO KNOW THAT THEIR LOVE ONE
IS OK. SOME TIMES THE VISITS CAN BE
HAMPERED DO TO THE C.O.'S NEGATIVE
ATTITUDE LIKE THE FAMILY ^{MEMBER} ~~THE~~ ONE
THAT COMMITTED THE CRIME. I THINK

THE VISITATIONS SHOULD BE MORE EASIER AND
MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR THE FAMILY MEMBERS.
ME PERSONALLY ME BEING A FATHER AND
BEING ABLE TO SEE MY CHILD MEANS
ALOT ^{DUE} TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IT PUTS A
SMILE ON MY FACE AS WELL AS HIS BEING
ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER. JUST KNOWING
THAT MAKES ME AS A PARENT FEEL
AT LEAST A ~~BIT~~ BIT BETTER LETTING ~~HE~~ HIM
KNOW THAT I LOVE HIM AND THAT
AM STILL AROUND EVEN IN MY MESSED
UP SITUATION. WITHOUT THE VISIT
IT WOULD FOR SURE BE HARDER TO BE IN
YOUR CHILD LIFE AND TRY TO FATHER
FROM A PRISON. VISITS ARE VERY
IMPORTANT.

TERRY STANLEY

270798

November 28, 2012

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of
Corrections Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates

I AM AN INMATE WRITING FROM CARL ROBINSON CORRECTIONAL ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE AND GREAT VALUE OF FAMILY ORIENTATED VISITATION. VISITATION OVERALL IS EXTREMELY CRITICAL DUE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE FACT THAT IT ALLOWS US AS INCARCERATED MEN A BRIEF ESCAPE FROM REALITY. REGARDING MY PERSONAL SITUATION, I HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED FOR 7 YEARS AND I HAVE ONE CHILD WHO IS 8 YRS OLD. THE COMPLETE BOND WE SHARE WAS BUILT THROUGH VISITATION SOLELY BECAUSE DUE TO HER YOUNG AGE, LETTERS + PHONE CONVERSATION WEREN'T STRONG POINTS. THE BOND WE SHARE IS THE ENVY OF MEN WHO HAVE BEEN HOME WITH THEIR KIDS. A FEW THINGS THAT HAMPER THE VISITS ARE THE FACT THAT OFTEN THE FAMILY IS TREATED AS IF THEY'VE COMMITTED A CRIME. ALSO THE POLICY OF IF YOU ARE NOT THE BIOLOGICAL PARENT THEN THE CHILD CANNOT BE PLACED ON YOUR LIST, REGARDLESS OF IF YOU'RE THE FATHER THEY KNOW OR NOT. AS A MAN LIVING THIS HARSH REALITY I WOULD ASK THAT THAT POLICY BE SINCERELY REVIEWED AND QUESTIONED.

ALSO THE GREETING HAS TO BE BRIEF, NOT TO MENTION YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH HANDS WITH YOUR CHILDREN OR YOUR SPOUSE WHICH IS A POSITIVE AND SHOWS YOUNG CHILDREN SIGNS OF LOVE. AS I STATED, I'VE BEEN INCARCERATED FOR 7 OF HER 8 YEARS SO ONE COULD ONLY IMAGINE WHAT AN HOUR TO AN HOUR + 1/2 HAS DONE FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP. SHE IS COMPLETELY AMAZED WITH HER FATHER. IT KEEPS US CLOSE, IT GIVES US SOME STAY SO AS INCARCERATED MEN. I THINK IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY RELEVANT TO BE HANDS ON AS LONG AS YOU HAVE CONTACT. I MAY BE ONLY ONE VOICE BUT ITS THE VOICE OF A FATHER WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT HE CAN BE A ROLE MODEL AND A MAJOR POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN HIS CHILD'S LIFE FROM PRISON.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

MR. M.G. TODD

#321362

November 28, 2012

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of
Corrections Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates

hello my name is Christopher Wagner I am currently
at Carl Robinson CI. My main visitor is my 4 yr
old daughter it is very important to me to ~~see~~^{see} her
for many reason I it allows me to interact with her
hold her hug her, read to her. It shows me first hand
why I should change my behavior. my daughter is my
heart and life even knew admittly my action haven't
always reflected that. I do how ever see that and am working
on making changes. visit have help my family in many
most important is my daughter tends to lash out after
not being able to see me so visit allow me to tell her
daddy loves her and that alone does wonder at home
for my daughter and her mother The main distraction
to visit for my loved ones are C/As treating them
as if they are the ones who broke the law another
big one sometimes they wait to see me longer than
they get to see me that is a big frustration!!
also visit schedule on by day letter of last name
of last inmate # dictates when my visitors ~~can~~
~~come~~ ~~some~~ ~~weeks~~ they my be able to come

on sat. But They aren't allowed Because
my day is Sunday Big frustration I don't
know how exactly to fix this,

I do know visits allow me to continue
to be an active father to my child
my daughter always ask me to play Candyland
her favorite game and get so upset we
can't it for the kids just an idea

Thank you for giving me a chance to
be heard Thank you

CHRIS WAGNER #276312

Carl Robinson CI

285 Shaker Rd P.O.B 1400

Enfield CT 06083

November 28, 2012

To: The Members of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Re: Recommendations to Change Certain Policies & Practices of the Department of
Corrections Involving Visitation of Adults and Children to Inmates

Hi my name is Brandon Robax and I'm an inmate at Carl Robinson C.I and I'm writing on my behalf of How visitation is operated and the things I disagree with. First of all visits are very important to us it gives me time to bond with my child and it keeps my mind focus on what I have to do to better me and my child's life when I get Home. But The things I don't like about the System and How visits are operated is you only get an Hour to visit and if you have a ticket you have to visit in the non-contact area, another thing if a loved one Has a record or Has been on probation they can't visit you, That's the situation I'm going through now, see my baby mother is on probation so she can't come and see me so my mother Has to bring my son and

It's like my mother is doing too much
just so I can see my son. But visits
give me time to sit and really get
my child familiar with me because
he's still an infant. Also I don't like
the visits because there's no privacy
I think that there should be contracted
visits. I know there's more stuff I
can talk about but that all I can
come up with for now.

Brandon Rolat # 329670 1/28/12