

Inquiry into children of imprisoned parents

Mr Benjamin Cronshaw

Organisation Name:
Your position or role:

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

There are concerns for how the incarceration of parents impacts on their children. Practically speaking, there is a physical separation between children and their incarcerated parent(s). There can be visitation but likely not as much access compared to normal circumstances. This can lead to children and their parents missing out on spending time together, both in general and with significant milestones such as birthdays or Christmases. It can also be more mundane things such as helping with homework, going camping together, reading books together and other things that parents would routinely do with their children - which contributes to quality time and helps with their interests and education. Where one parent is incarcerated, this could put additional pressure on the other parent to do the housework, employment and raising the children. With a single parent or both parents incarcerated, this puts pressure on other family members to take care of the children. It can potentially place the children in a more unstable position.

This can naturally lead to deleterious mental health impacts on the parents or their children, or extended family. Having a parent(s) in prison can also lead to stigma for the children. It would be particularly concerning where the incarceration of the parent creates more unstable conditions for the children's wellbeing and upbringing. This can disrupt the children's education, pursuit of other activities and skills and emotional and social development. This could also make them more vulnerable to ending up in juvenile detention or incarcerated as an adult. This would be concerning to see intergenerational incarceration.

It is important to have policies in place to support the children of incarcerated parents, to lessen any negative impacts and ensure they have as a stable and enjoyable childhood as possible. It is also important for them to have the opportunity to spend quality time with their parents (where this is safe and beneficial).

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind Regards,

Benjamin Cronshaw.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:
File2:
File3:

Signature:
Benjamin Cronshaw