

Supporting the needs of children and families by parental offending.



Children of prisoners are often the unseen victims of crime. They have done nothing wrong, yet they are the ones who often carry the guilt and shame of what their parent has done. Unless they are already known to statutory children's services or are assessed as children in need, they are unlikely to receive any specific support to help them cope.

The information contained within this pack was correct at the time of sharing. We update this on a regular basis. If you notice any links are broken or information has changed please contact ShropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk and we will update the information. Further Family Information Services and Resource Packs are available through the Early Help website www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help

Offenders Families helpline

This website has information for families on all aspects of the criminal justice system in England and Wales from arrest through to release. You can find lots of information on this website about what to expect if a member of your family is arrested from what it means if they are charged, how bail works, to their rights in custody. The information provided on this website aims to help you understand what will happen next and explain the terms and processes you may come across in your journey through the Criminal Justice System.



**For advice and support
on all aspects of arrest,
going to court and prison**

Helpline opening hours:
Monday - Friday 9am - 8pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am - 3pm

Leaflet for families

<http://www.offendersfamilieshelpline.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/National-Offenders-A5.pdf>

Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families

Action for Prisoners' Families merged with Family Lives in October 2014 (renamed to Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families) expanding our support for professionals by focusing specifically on those working with families of prisoners and offenders.

<http://www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk/>

Leaflet: Telling the children

http://pelorous.totallyplc.com/public/cms/287/0/228/9751/The_Outsiders_Telling_the_children.pdf?realName=y2bNbu.pdf

Family Lives

Family lives offers support to families across the UK about any issue through their website and 24 hour free helpline on 0808 800 2222

When a parent goes to prison, it can have a devastating effect on the family that are left behind to cope with the aftermath. The parent that is in prison may feel as though they are the ones left in a difficult position but unfortunately the pressure put upon

the parent that is left to care for the family is immense. Parents in prison often cannot see how their sentence impacts on their family.

<http://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/parenting/how-to-cope-if-a-parent-goes-to-prison>

Ormiston Trust

Ormiston Trust is a national charity which aims to improve the life-chances of children and young people.

The Unite Programme works with prisoners and their families to minimize the impact of imprisonment on their children. Our services support family relationships to continue developing throughout the sentence, which plays a critical role in helping to reduce reoffending rates.

Ormiston Families works in the majority of the regions prisons, providing services through our friendly and welcoming staff in our Visitors' Centres.

Our services include children's visits, accredited parenting courses, family liaison, community work and much more besides.

<http://www.ormiston.org/>

PACT

Pact is a national charity which supports people affected by imprisonment. Prisoners' Families and Friends Service is part of PACT provide practical and emotional support to prisoners' children and families, and to prisoners themselves.

<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>

The information provided in these fact sheets is intended for information purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice. If you would like to speak with one of the Pact team about any of the information below, or would like further help, please call our Freephone helpline on **0808 808 3444**.

Information sheets for families: <http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/info-advice/prisoners-family-and-friends-faqs>

POPS

POPS provide information and support to the families of offenders from their earliest contact with the Criminal Justice System (CJS), through to release and beyond. POPS believe that offenders' families can make a difference. We believe that families of offenders should be recognised as invaluable contributors to the offender journey and should not experience discrimination as a result of their relative's involvement in the criminal justice system.

<http://www.partnersofprisoners.co.uk/>

Prison Phone

A specialised phone service, landline rate for the call. Prison Phone reduces the cost of a call from any UK prison to your mobile phone. This means that instead of the prisoner being charged the mobile rate for a call (around 40p per minute) they will only ever be charged the local landline rate (a maximum of 10p per minute) giving you the chance to get mobile again instead of waiting in by the landline for a call.

<http://www.prisonphone.co.uk/>



Prison Chat UK

An online community for anyone with a loved one in prison. We are an online community giving support to those who have a loved one inside the British prison system. Whoever is inside, be it your mother, father, wife, husband, sister, brother etc., and no matter what they have done.

<http://prisonchatuk.com/>

Spurgeons

A leading children's charity

The impact a parent's imprisonment has on their children is not fully known. But we do know, and believe, that it's crucial that we help children to address the root-causes of their problems, support children and their families while they have a family member in prison and ensure we break the cycle of imprisonment within families.

<http://www.spurgeons.org/families-and-criminal-justice/>

Victim Support

Victim support is an independent charity helping people cope with the effects of crime, by providing free and confidential support and information. If you've been a victim of any crime or have been affected by a crime committed against someone you know, we can help you find the strength to deal with what you've been through.

Your Supportline is **08 08 16 89 111**

Weeknights 8pm to 8am, weekends Saturday 5pm to Monday 8am

<http://www.offendersfamilieshelpline.org/index.php/usefullinks/#sthash.40PTrAD9.dpuf>

Barnardo's

Supporting all professionals to work with offenders' children and their families

I-HOP – iHop provides information and advice to professionals working with children and families of prisoners and offenders, they provide free workshops, and advice.

<http://www.i-hop.org.uk/>

Prisoners Families and Friends Service

Prisoners' Families and Friends Service is a service under Pact, which provides services in England and Wales; both in the community and across 50 prisons. This service has been helping prisoners' families for over 40 years. We provide support, friendship and advice to the families and friends of anyone sentenced to imprisonment or remanded in custody.

<http://www.pffs.org.uk/>

Call free on **0808 808 3444**

Fact Sheets:

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These are hyperlinks

- Assisted Prison Visits - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/APVU2007.pdf>
- Home detention curfew (tagging) - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Tagging.pdf>
- Transfers - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Transfers.pdf>
- How sentences are calculated - http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Sentence_calculation2.pdf
- Life and indeterminate sentences - http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Life_sentences.pdf
- Keeping in touch with a prisoner via phone and mail - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/contact.pdf>
- Prison visits - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Visits.pdf>
- Prisoners' property and money - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Visits.pdf>
- Categorisation - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Categorisation.pdf>
- Self harm and suicide - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Suicide.pdf>
- Who can help - http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Who_can_help.pdf
- Who can help – mental health - http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Mental_Health.pdf
- Drugs - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Drugs.pdf>
- MAPPA- <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/MAPPA.pdf>
- Housing - <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Housing.pdf>
- Benefit entitlements- <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Benefits.pdf>

- Youth justice - http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Youth_Offending.pdf
- Parole- <http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Parole.pdf>
- Home visits by the probation service-
http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Probation_Home_Visits.pdf
- Release and resettlement:
 - Family-
http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Release_and_resettlement_family.pdf
 - Employment and housing -
http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Release_and_resettlement_housing_emp.pdf
 - Finance/benefits -
http://www.pffs.org.uk/uploads/Release_and_resettlement_finance.pdf

Often asked questions: These are hyperlinks (click on title to open):

- How can I find out which prison my relative has been sent to?
http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/sent_to/
- Can I claim the cost of travel to prison visits?
http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/assisted_prison_visits/
- What can I send in for my relative in prison?
http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/send_in/
- How can I get my relative transferred to a prison nearer home so I can visit more often? http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/prison_transfers/
- Why hasn't s/he contacted me? <http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/contact/>
- How can I get an urgent message to a prisoner?
<http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/urgent/>
- I cannot get through to the visits booking line
http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/booking_line/
- I am worried that a prisoner may self harm or commit suicide or is not getting medication <http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/worried/>
- What is home detention curfew? <http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/tagging/>
- What is MAPPA? <http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/mappa/>
- My relative has lost their home through being in prison. What can they do?
<http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/home/>
- I would like a home visitor – what do I do? <http://www.pffs.org.uk/faqs/swan/>

Gov.UK Support for families/ friends of prisoners

Get help and advice if you know someone in prison.

You can contact:

The Offenders' Families Helpline

Email: info@offendersfamilieshelpline.org Telephone: 0808 808 2003

<https://www.gov.uk/support-for-families-friends-of-prisoners>