

Do you have a Loved One in Prison?



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www.ambassadorsforhope.com

When your loved one is arrested, it's normal to feel:

- Disbelief that the person you know could have committed a crime
- Fear about the reactions of neighbors, friends, or other families
- Shame
- Anger at the person who has been arrested
- Anger towards the police and criminal justice system
- Concern about media attention
- Worry about the person who has been arrested
- Uncertainty about what will happen next

Resources

Ambassadors for Hope Resource Guide

To view a compiled list of resources available to children and their families and caretakers, view our guide here:

<http://www.ambassadorsforhope.com/resources.php>

The Family Services Advocate (FSA)

If your loved one has children that need additional support, the FSA provides direct case management services. This person will ensure that all immediate needs, like clothing and shelter, are met. The FSA can also assist in establishing guardianship, accessing medical insurance, locating food and clothing banks, and accessing educational supports. If you need the Family Services Advocate, call **717-299-2831**

Children of Prisoners Library

There are pamphlets designed to help parents and caregivers understand the trauma and needs of children who have a parent in prison. Pamphlets are free and can be downloaded at

<https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/resources/library/children-of-prisoners-library> or by googling "Children of Incarcerated Parents Library"

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Commitment/Classification

- Individuals committed to prison spend up to 14 working days in the Intake Unit.
- During this time, prison staff review such things as your loved one's legal status, age, mental and physical condition, prior incarceration and behavioral record, probation and parole violations to determine their classification.
- Individuals committed to prison may make one free phone call.
- For more information, visit:
<https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/894/Commitment-Intake-and-Classification-Inf>

Mail

- Mail is no longer delivered to the prison. It is sent to another address where it will be scanned and sent to your loved one electronically.
- Mediums such as crayons, markers, and colored pencils can be used, as well as stickers.
- The mail cannot include items such as cash, newspaper clippings, or photocopies.
- Your loved one may have up to five 4x6 pictures at a time.
- Mail should be addressed like this:

Inmate Name and I.D. Number

C/O Securus Digital Mail Center - Lancaster County

PO Box 792

Lebanon, MO 65536



Medication

- Medical staff will interview your loved one regarding their medications.
- Medical staff will provide those medications or comparable ones.
- To ensure all medications are given, bring a list of your loved one's medications with the dosage. Drop the list off at the reception area, which is open 6am-10pm.



Personal Belongings

- Your loved one may not have personal belongings.
- Newspapers, magazines, and books must be mailed directly from the publisher.



Phone Calls

- It is important to understand that you can never call your loved one. They must place the call to you.
- After orientation, your loved one is assigned a cell in the general prison population.
- They can make phone calls to you from the block during free time.
- Please understand your conversations will be recorded by the prison.
- For more information, visit:
<https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/222/Contacting-Inmates>



Prison Rules

Information about the rules that anyone in the Lancaster County Prison must follow is found in the Inmate Rule Book. You can read an online copy of the Inmate Rule Book at [LANCASTER COUNTY PRISON](http://www.lancastercountyprison.com)



Status of Your Loved One's Criminal Case

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- It can be difficult to obtain information regarding someone else's criminal case. Attorney-client privilege means that your loved one's lawyer is not allowed to share information with anyone else unless the client agrees.
 - It is possible to obtain some information about the status of a pending criminal case by consulting the "Case Search" page of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania Web Portal.
 - For a case pending in Lancaster County, search by "participant name" and select "Lancaster County" in the county drop down menu. This will bring up the docket information for the pending criminal case.
 - Things that have occurred in the last two weeks may not be noted on the docket information provided. The link to the Case Search page is <https://ujportal.pacourts.us/casesearch>
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Visitation

- After your loved one is assigned a housing unit, they are permitted one visitation per week.
- Once you know your loved one's housing assignment, you can get the visitation schedule here:

<https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/892/Visitation-Information>

Lancaster County Prison
625 East King Street
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717-299-7800

<https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/756/Whos-In-Jail>

