

Fact Sheets for Caregivers



The four most common questions children ask when a parent is arrested

To help children work through their curiosity and feelings, here are the most common questions a child will ask when their family member is in jail, prison, or community corrections placement such as drug/alcohol treatment programs.

1. Where is my Mum or Dad?

Often times, adults tend to sugarcoat information about family members who have committed crimes because they want to protect children from the painful truth. Lying to a child is never a good idea. The truth has a way of coming out eventually. A lie revealed by someone else may cause the child to doubt the caregiver. Telling a child that the family member works in another city, state, or in the hospital only increases anxiety.

Without accurate information, a child might believe matters are worse than they are.

2. Why did my Mum or Dad go to live in a Correctional Centre?

People are sent to jail or prison because they did not obey the law. Laws are important rules that tell us how people should or should not behave. Children have rules for behavior, too. When a child breaks the rules, they may have a consequence such as a time-out or lose privileges. Prisons and jails are like long time-outs for grown-ups who broke the law.

3. When will he or she be coming home?

People in Correctional Centre's usually know the approximate date of their release.

However, release dates are seldom certain due to too many variables in the criminal justice process. It is probably best not to give the child a firm date on which the loved one will return home. For example, a family member who is eligible for a parole hearing might tell the caregiver that (s)he is getting out of prison soon, but the parole board may not grant the parole.

"We don't know for sure but we do know that she will not be home for Christmas." "The judge will decide today if your family member can come home."

4. When can I see my Mum or Dad?

In most cases, family members can visit correctional facilities and rehabilitation centers'. Contact the centre to find out the process for arranging visits only if the contact is safe and appropriate for the child. Talk through the process before each visit so that the child is aware of the rules of the centre and not afraid of any of the security processes.

Fact Sheet No. 1

2016

The four most common questions children ask when a parent is arrested

"To break the cycle of inter-generational offending and change lives"



**TJILLARI Justice
Aboriginal Corporation**

**P.O. Box 1135
WODEN ACT 2606**

**Mob: 0402 062 191
Email: tjillarijustice@gmail.com
www.tjillarijustice.com.au**

Working with linked text boxes

The text boxes in this newsletter are linked, so text from one column flows into the other column and you can easily include more than one story on a page.

When you are working with linked text boxes, you should turn on the **Text Box** toolbar. To do this, on the **View** menu, point to **Toolbars**, and then click **Text Box**.

When you start writing your story, we recommend that you do most of your writing and editing before you copy the text into the empty linked text boxes. To move among linked text boxes in a story, select a text box that is part of a story. On the **Text Box** toolbar, click **Next Text Box** or **Previous Text Box**.

To copy or move linked text boxes, select the first text box in the story.

Hold down **SHIFT** and select each additional text box you want to copy or move. On the **Edit** menu, click **Copy** or **Cut**. Click where you want to copy or move the text boxes. On the **Edit** menu, click **Paste**.

You can also break a link between any two linked text boxes in a story. To do this, select the text box. On the **Text Box** toolbar, click **Break Forward Link**.

Caption describing picture or graphic.

Adding pictures to your newsletter

Pictures of your family trips, special events, and every day life will bring your newsletter stories to life. Once you have chosen a picture, place it close to the story. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

If you want to use clip art in your newsletter, you can find thousands of clip art images on Microsoft Office Online that you can download and insert into your newsletter.

To change the pictures in this newsletter to your own, click the image you want to change. On the **Insert** menu, click **Picture**, and then click **Clip Art** or **From File**. Locate the image you want and double-click it. The new image will be inserted into the existing text box for easy positioning.

Tip: Text boxes that contain images or text often do not have borders showing, so it may not be apparent that an item is placed within a text box.

To see the text boxes that contain the pictures in this template, click **Options** on the **Tools** menu, click the **View** tab, and then select the **Text boundaries** check box under **Print and Web Layout options**.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Our Family

Address line 1

Address line 2

City, ST ZIP Code

Phone:

(242) 555-0167

Fax:

(242) 555-0168

E-Mail:

someone@example.com

Web Site:

www.widgets.msn.com

**A favorite family
phrase or slogan can
go here.**

A special message from our family

On the back of your family's newsletter, you may want to add a simple greeting, poem, or an example of your children's artwork. This is the first part of the newsletter that your loved ones will see, so make sure that it is festive and eye-catching.

You can add your own artwork to the back of a family newsletter by scanning in a drawing or a photograph.

**Our kids' favorite
Christmas joke:**

**What do you call a person who is
afraid of Santa Claus?**

Claustrophobic!

Season's greetings!

A great way to add content to this newsletter is to include a calendar of upcoming events or a special memory that your family shares. You can also transcribe the words of a song or a poem onto the back of your newsletter to set the tone for the rest of your message.

With a little creativity and imagination, creating a holiday newsletter can be a great way to say "Season's Greetings!"

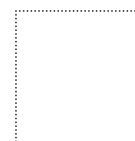


Our Family's Name

Address line 1

Address line 2

City, ST ZIP Code



Friend's Name

Street Address

City, State Zip Code