

# Family members in the Criminal Justice System

## What does it mean?

We understand that families with members who are in the criminal justice system need specific support and advice.

Currently, there are no formal systems in place to identify which families have a family member in the criminal justice system and so we want to make sure you have the information you need to reach out for support and resources to help you, should you need them.

The criminal justice system is made up of UK services responsible for administering justice. This includes the police, the crown prosecution service and the prison system.

## Why do I need to know as a parent or carer?

When someone enters the criminal justice system or indeed goes to prison, it can be a challenging and confusing time for the whole family.

What we do know, is that children, as well as the rest of the family, can be greatly impacted when they have a family member in the criminal justice system.

All children, including adolescent children, can experience all or some of the following:

- Emotional and mental health difficulties including anxiety, anger, sadness, and depression.
- Difficulties accessing community resources. They may become isolated and withdraw from friends.
- They may struggle to attend school/college and even when attending, fail to achieve their education goals.
- Long term effects relating to the trauma.
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We know that often families worry about being judged and stigmatised and are worried about seeking help. However, the difficulties and challenges you face can be mitigated with appropriate help and support.

Childline have created a number of resources to support adolescent children when a family member is in the criminal justice system. You can access this information by [clicking here](#).

## Where can I get local advice and support?

### **Hampshire:**

**Winchester Prison Family Support Services (Spurgeons)** - offers practical and emotional support to prisoners and their families.

[Click here](#)

### **Isle of Wight:**

Isle of Wight Family Centres	
<b>West &amp; Central Hub</b> East Newport Family Centre Furrlongs Newport PO30 2AX <a href="tel:01983529208">01983 529208</a>	<b>North East Wight Hub</b> Ryde Family Centre George Street Ryde PO33 2JF <a href="tel:01983617617">01983 617617</a>
<b>South Wight Hub</b> Sandown Family Centre The Fairway Sandown PO36 9EQ <a href="tel:01983408718">01983 408718</a>	Family Centre email address: <a href="mailto:iowfamilycentres@barnardos.org.uk">iowfamilycentres@barnardos.org.uk</a>

## Where can I get more advice from national resources and support?

The following provides information to parents and carers on apps that young people can use. It also includes advice on how to have conversations with the young people in your life and identify any support they might need.

<i>Link and/or QR code</i>	<i>Description</i>
<a href="#">Prisoners' Families Helpline</a>  Tel: 0808 808 2003	<b>Prisoners' Families Helpline</b> is a national organisation and a great resource for all UK families. They also have a freephone helpline.
<a href="#">Nicco</a>	<b>Nicco</b> is a national information centre who support children of offenders.
<a href="#">Affect</a>	<b>Affect</b> supports the families and friends of prisoners regardless of length of sentence or type of offence.
<a href="#">Prison Chat UK</a>	<b>Prison Chat</b> is an online community giving support to those who have a loved one inside the British prison system.

[Time Matters UK](#)

**Time-Matters UK** supports children who are impacted by parental imprisonment. They provide group support and individual support for children and young people aged five years to 18 years, both face to face and online. They support children from anywhere in the UK.