

Maintaining Family Ties in the Federal Prison System

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Second Chance Month – April 2022

Help **individuals, communities, and agencies** across the country recognize the importance of reentry and their role in **building second chances**



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#ReentryMatters

#SecondChanceMonth

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OBJECTIVES

Facts & Figures

National Parenting Program / Visitation

Pregnancy

Use of restraints

Residential Parenting Programs – MINT/RPP

Post-Partum Care

Looking Ahead

Frequently Asked Questions

WOMEN IN PRISON



7% of the BOP population

Average age – 39

10% deal with a serious mental illness

62% - completed GED/high school diploma

Less common: History of violence & disciplinary infractions

More common: Drug offenses & program participation

89% are mothers

67% have at least one child under the age of 18

WOMEN'S PRISONS IN THE BOP

Minimum Security "Camp" Facilities	Low Security Facilities	Facilities with Special Missions such as Pretrial or Medical/Mental Health
<p><u>Alderson, WV</u> <u>Bryan, TX</u> <u>Greenville, IL</u> <u>Lexington, KY</u> <u>Marianna, FL</u> <u>Pekin, IL</u> <u>Phoenix, AZ</u> <u>Victorville, CA</u></p>	<p><u>Aliceville, AL*</u> <u>Dublin, CA*</u> <u>Danbury, CT*</u> <u>Hazelton, WV</u> <u>Tallahassee, FL</u> <u>Waseca, MN</u></p> <p>*Also has a women's camp</p>	<p><u>Brooklyn, NY</u> <u>Carswell, TX *</u> <u>Chicago, IL</u> <u>Guaynabo, PR</u> <u>Honolulu, HI</u> <u>Houston, TX</u> <u>Los Angeles, CA</u> <u>Miami, FL</u> <u>Oklahoma City, OK</u> <u>Philadelphia, PA</u> <u>San Diego, CA</u> <u>SeaTac, WA</u> <u>Tucson, AZ</u></p>

BOP'S NATIONAL PARENTING PROGRAM



Mothers and
Fathers

Evidence
Based



Two Phase Model:

- 1. Psycho-educational workshop
- 2. Specialty programs

CHILDREN'S CENTERS

Family Friendly
Visiting

Art
Supplies

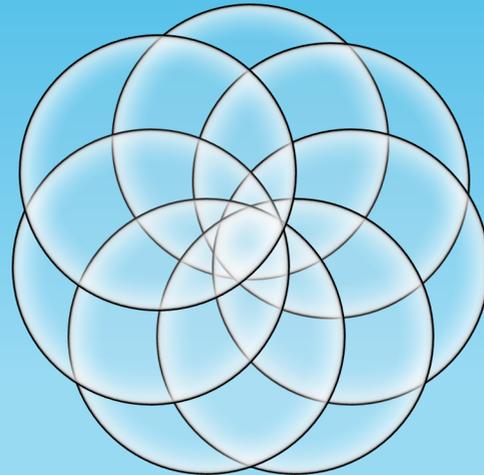
Natural
Interaction

Puzzles

Games

Books

Toy Bins



CHILDREN'S DAY EVENTS

FOSTERING POSITIVE COMMUNICATION, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, AND STRENGTHENING FAMILY TIES

CHILD TO FATHER SUMMER CAMP

FCI Cumberland + Hope House

Father-child playground activities.

Miss USA, Asya Branch, shared experience having an incarcerated father.



MOTHER TO CHILD READING EVENT

FDC Philadelphia + Hope House

Mothers read a short book. Voice recording & book mailed to family



CHILD TO FATHER SUMMER CAMP VIDEO



<https://vimeo.com/712658768>

PREGNANCY IN PRISON

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

Medical

- Testing, prenatal vitamins, pre and post-natal care

Psychology

- Therapeutic interventions

Food Service

- Dietary recommendations

Trust Fund

- Additional access to commissary items

Unit Team

- Housing, programs, placement

Social Worker

- Carry to term, programs, placement, after-care

RESTRAINTS MAY ONLY BE USED ON PREGNANT OR POST-PARTUM WOMEN IF...

There is an immediate and credible flight risk that cannot reasonably be prevented by other means

The woman poses an immediate and serious threat of harm to herself or others that cannot reasonably be prevented by other means

A healthcare professional determines the use of restraints is appropriate for the woman's medical safety

RESTRAINTS SHOULD NEVER BE USED ON PREGNANT AND POST-PARTUM WOMEN...



Around the ankles, legs or waist

Restraining hands behind back
(only in front)

Four-point restraints

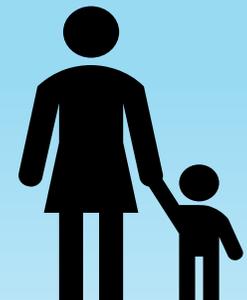
Attaching one person to another

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Mothers & Infants
Together (MINT)



Residential Parenting
Program (RPP)



MOTHERS & INFANT TOGETHER (MINT)



Duration

- 6 months post-delivery (or more, with approval)

Locations

- Phoenix, AZ
- Tallahassee, FL
- Springfield, IL
- Dallas, TX
- Hillsboro, WV

Eligibility Requirements

- Pregnant upon entry into prison system
- Assume financial responsibility for child's expenses
- Less than 5 years remaining on sentence
- No plans to place infant up for adoption

RESIDENTIAL PARENTING PROGRAM (RPP)

DURATION

30 Months in Program

*Released to Residence
or Home Confinement*

LOCATION

Gig Harbor, WA

*Developed in 1999 by Washington
Corrections Center for Women*

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Pregnant upon entry into prison system
- Minimum security (Out/Community custody)
- Release date or home confinement eligibility date is within 30 months of due date
- No 200 or higher series incident reports in the last 6 months
- Satisfactory or higher work evaluations (if applicable)
- Clear history of serious disciplinary conduct involving aggression or assault
- No current no contact orders with minor children
- No history of sex offense convictions, crimes against children, domestic violence, or founded allegations of neglect/abuse with Child Protective Services



POST-PARTUM CARE

12 weeks

Evaluation by medical provider and social worker

Nursing allowed during visitation

Health services - issues breast pump & provides lactation support

Warden can request approval to store mother's milk supply

LOOKING AHEAD

Prenatal &
Postpartum
Interviews

Holistic
Family
Programming
Series

Expanding
Special
Population
Coordinators

Long Term
Community
Placement
Options

Doula
Services

Doula
Training

FAQ: HOW DID COVID AFFECT PREGNANT WOMEN IN CUSTODY?

Due to COVID, judges were much less likely to sentence to a prison term than a situation more amenable to community confinement. Also, due to the implementation of the CARES Act, several women were able to be relocated to home confinement earlier than previously allowed. MINT and RPP eligibility requirements were also loosened and became more flexible during this time period to extend placements.

FAQ: ARE WOMEN SHACKLED DURING DELIVERY?

In the Federal Prison System, restraints are only applied when absolutely necessary for the safety of the mother or child, as deemed by a health care provider.

FAQ: IF A WOMAN IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN A RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT OPTION, IS BONDING ALLOWED WITH THE INFANT POST-DELIVERY?

Yes, as long there is not a safety concern, women are given time to bond in the hospital with their newborn.

**FAQ: IS THE RESIDENTIAL PARENTING PROGRAM (RPP)
IN A SECURE INSTITUTION?**

Yes, the program takes place within a contract facility within the Washington State Department of Corrections. This is the only location at this time.

FAQ: WHAT IS A MINT PROGRAM LIKE REGARDING STRUCTURE, PROGRAMMING, ETC.?

The MINT promotes mother and infant bonding in a safe residential environment. Upon arrival at the MINT, expectant mothers are provided an orientation that includes a tour of the facility, an overview of the health care and social service assistance, review of expectations and facility rules. Within a week, participants meet with the MINT case manager and develop an individualized program plan. The plan includes prenatal care such as lactation consultation, birthing classes, and a scheduled tour of the hospital. Mothers are expected to set parenting and programming goals and work toward meeting them prior to their release or returning to an institution to complete their sentence.

FAQ: WHAT ARE SOME BEST PRACTICES TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMING AND CARE OF MOTHERS TAKES PLACE?

Best practices include: staff training and buy in of programming; the use of trauma informed care; standardized care guidelines; effective tracking or prenatal and postpartum women's; flexibility in meeting the changing needs of pregnant and postpartum women; and providing a supportive environment for women and their families.

THANK YOU!!!



*No one truly
knows a nation
until one has been
inside its jails.*

~Nelson Mandela

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