

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT

Chambers of
Hon. Joseph M. Shortall
Judge Trial Referee

May 2, 2013

Honorable James E. Dzurenda
Acting Commissioner
Department of Correction
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield CT 06109

Re: Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Regarding Inmate Visitation Policies

Dear Commissioner Dzurenda:

At its meeting on March 21, 2013 the Sentencing Commission adopted by consensus the enclosed recommendations of its Recidivism Reduction Committee and directed me, as chair of the Commission, to forward them to you.

While Commissioner Arnone was unable to attend the meeting, I had spoken to him the previous day and learned that the recommendations had his full support. In fact, as a member of the Recidivism Reduction Committee, Commissioner Arnone had been involved in the development of the recommendations.

In adopting these recommendations to the Department of Correction the Commission recognized that the timing of their implementation will be affected by the Department's budget limitations, as well as safety and security considerations. At the same time, the Commission is persuaded that implementation of the recommendations would support and strengthen positive social relationships between inmates and family members, which research has shown can have a positive impact on recidivism.

The Commission is available to work with the Department in devising methods to measure the outcomes of initiation of these policies, and I hope you will call on us in that regard. May I ask that you keep the Commission up-to-date on your implementation of the recommendations?

Respectfully,

cc: Mike Lawlor
Vice-Chair, Connecticut Sentencing Commission

Vivien Blackford
Co-Chair, Recidivism Reduction Committee

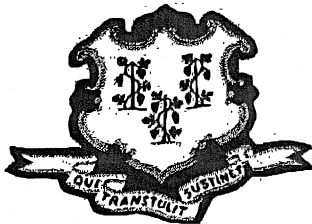
Maureen Price-Boreland
Co-Chair, Recidivism Reduction Committee

Andrew Clark
Acting Executive Director, Connecticut Sentencing Commission

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Recommendations to the Connecticut Department of Correction:

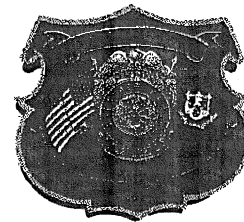
1. The Department of Correction should adopt an agency-wide policy statement recognizing that the positive social ties of offenders can help to reduce recidivism.
2. The Department of Correction should consider revisions to its administrative directives on visiting to make the directives more consistent with the positive impact of positive social relationships on offenders.
3. Within the limits of security and capacity constraints, the Department of Correction should seek to minimize obstacles to family visits. The Department should also implement some means of gathering data on family visits, perhaps using volunteers to gather and process data.
4. The Department of Correction should initiate - from within its own agency or through outside channels - an assessment of the transportation available to visitors to all of Connecticut's prison facilities. The assessment should include an appraisal of the degree of demand for transportation from each of the major cities.
5. The Department of Correction should assess the quality and prevalence of child-friendly features in visiting areas of its prison facilities, and should encourage efforts by staff and volunteers to expand these features.
6. The Department of Correction should develop criteria and standards for lengthened visits and communicate these to inmates, and through postings, to family members.
7. The Department of Correction should further develop programs that have an evidence-based capacity to strengthen the bonds between incarcerated parents and their children.
8. The Department of Correction review disciplinary restrictions on visiting and phone calls in light of their impact on positive social ties, and where feasible, minimize their impact on family visits.
9. The Department of Corrections' programs for fathers should receive additional attention.
10. In the Department of Correction, increased case management should, where appropriate, strengthen connections of inmates to their families, and family ties to agency services for inmates.



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



James E. Dzurenda
Interim Commissioner

May 6, 2013

The-Honorable Joseph M. Shortall
Superior Court
20 Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

Dear Judge Shortall:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 2, 2013 with regard to the Connecticut Sentencing Commission and the recommendations of the Recidivism Reduction Committee. Please be advised that I have assigned Monica Rinaldi, Director of Programs & Treatment, to develop a committee to review each of the recommendations.

Director Rinaldi will be submitting a formal feasibility and action plan of the implementation of the recommendations.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James E. Dzurenda
Interim Commissioner

JED/jab

cc: Monica Rinaldi, Director

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