

Children of Incarcerated Parents Deserve Timely Permanency



If you're in the child welfare system and your parent is incarcerated, your case might need a different approach or resources, but the urgency to reach permanency is no different than other children.

Failure to meaningfully engage incarcerated parents can delay permanency for abused and neglected children.

- ◆ If an incarcerated parent doesn't participate in a case plan, for example by completing necessary programs or communicating with the child, he or she may not be ready to resume parental responsibilities when released.
- ◆ In cases where a child won't be reunified with an incarcerated parent but might be adopted, failure to offer the parent an opportunity to complete a case plan can be a barrier to terminating parental rights and adoption.
- ◆ These failures can set a case back for months.

HB 281 and SB 522 will keep cases on track by providing guidance for case planning with incarcerated parents specifically and requiring action if a parent enters or leaves incarceration during the case. The bills expressly state no new obligations are created for facilities not already in law and they are not anticipated to have a fiscal impact.



PLEASE SUPPORT HB 281 BY REP. WILLIAMS AND SB 522 BY SENATOR BEAN

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