

# The Effects of Incarceration

## 1. Financial Loss and Added Expenses

Not only has the family possibly lost income from the incarcerated parent, they quite often take on additional expenses such as long distance phone calls, putting money in the incarcerated parent's account and paying for transportation to the prison for visits.

## 2. Stigma of Incarceration

Individuals can look down upon families and children causing a variety of problems. This is why many families attempt to keep the incarceration hidden from children, friends, and neighbors.

## 3. Loss of Parent/Child Bond

Incarceration affects both the parent and the child causing a variety of developmental issues and concerns.

## 4. Added Stress on Grandparents and Extended Family Members

There are financial stressors, lack of support and services, and issues of grief and loss that make caring for the children a challenge.

## 5. Costs to the Community, Its Systems, and Society

Many communities have very high rates of incarceration leading to the draining of community resources and its slow deterioration.

## 6. Potential Loss of Parental Rights

It is extremely difficult for the incarcerated parent to comply with ASFA guidelines, child welfare requirements, and participate in required programs.

## 7. Family Instability

Conditions in many of these families were already tenuous. The incarceration could lead to the complete collapse of the family.

## 8. Loss of Intimacy

If the mother and father were together prior to incarceration, it negatively affects their relationship possibly leading to a breakup.

## 9. Child-Related Concerns

A variety of problems can develop ranging from attachment issues, developmental delays, emotional and psychological problems, peer relationship issues, fears and phobias, school failure, delinquency, intergenerational incarceration, issues of grief and loss, and self-esteem concerns related to feelings of shame and guilt.

