

**Manual for**  
**Incarcerated Mothers of Children in Foster Care**

We hope that this manual will aid you in answering questions about what happens to your child when you are incarcerated and what you can do to regain legal custody or be reunified you're your child when you are released. In many cases prisoners are not given access to information regarding their legal rights as parents and struggle to do all that they can from inside. Our goals for this manual are to help you make a workable plan for your child while you are incarcerated, and to highlight your legal rights. The forms in the back of the manual should give you a good start in beginning to fight for your rights as a parent and we encourage you to get started as soon as possible. Deadlines are short and your active involvement is essential!

Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children

Georgia Commission on Family Violence

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## **Definitions**

These are terms you may hear in connection with a child deprivation case in Georgia:

**Adoption:** When a court gives custody of a child to new parents. An adoption happens only if the birth parents agree to it, if the court terminated their parental rights, or if they passed away. A child who is 14 or older must agree to the adoption.

**Aging Out:** When a child leaves foster care because she reaches age 18 or finishes high school (whichever comes last) without returning home or being adopted.

**Appeal:** When a party in a case disagrees with the decision the judge makes, she can ask her attorney to consider applying to appeal the decision. An appeal is a hearing where a different judge (or group of judges) looks at the case to see if any important mistakes were made.

**Case Plan:** A plan that DFCS, along with the youth and family, makes and updates every six months. It includes the services provided to the youth and family, and it explains what the family needs to do for the child to be safe in the home.

**Citizen Panel:** A group of volunteers who review how a foster care case is going and make recommendations to the court. Parents and children can attend the citizen panel reviews. Not all counties use Citizens Panels. If a Citizens Panel does not do the review, the judge will do it.

**Confidentiality:** Keeping things private or secret. Unless they are serving as your Guardian ad Litem, an attorney is required to keep things you tell them confidential unless they have your permission to tell.

**Continuance:** When a court hearing is moved to a later date. It can happen for different reasons. For instance, someone important to the case did not show up, or everyone involved with the case decides they need more time to work on the case.

**Delinquent:** A person who is under 17 who has committed a crime and gone to court for that crime.

**Deprivation:** When a child's parents or caregivers do not keep the child safe or give them what they need to be healthy. A judge can give DFCS custody of a deprived child.

**Deprived Child:** A person under age 18 who is under the supervision of the court because of abuse, neglect or abandonment.

**DFCS (Pronounced "D-Fax"):** Stands for the Division of Family and Children Services. It is the agency that takes custody of children who are removed from their parents' homes and provides services to children in foster care. Your case-worker probably works for DFCS.

**Emancipation:** A youth who is legally declared an adult (by a court) prior to age 18. If a court emancipates a youth in foster care, the youth is no longer in DFCS custody or in foster care.

**Foster Care:** When a child lives somewhere other than in her home with her parents or caregivers. It can be a foster home with relatives or a foster home with people she didn't know before. It can be a group home, an institution (like a hospital) or an independent living setting.

**Foster Home:** A temporary home with adults who have agreed to take care of a child while he is in DFCS custody. They may be people he knew before (including relatives) or they may be people he meets for the first time when he goes to stay at their home. The people in this home have been trained and licensed by DFCS.

**Group Home:** An alternative to traditional in-home foster care for children, where they are placed in a home-like setting, in which a number of unrelated children live for varying periods of time with a single set of house parents, or with a rotating staff of trained caregivers.

**Guardianship:** When an adult who is not the child's parent has parental responsibility for the child. It is usually a relative or a friend who already knows the child

**Hearing:** An official "meeting" in court with the judge in charge.

**Independent Living:** A type of living arrangement where a child (who is at least 16 years old) lives with a relative, with friends, in a dorm or in his/her own apartment without the day-to-day supervision of an adult.

**Independent Living Program (ILP):** A program that helps foster youth (age 14-21) get ready to be adults. This program provides classes in life skills, vocational training, equipment needed for job training, money for college scholarships, and rent assistance.

**Individual Education Plan (IEP):** A plan to help a child who has special needs and is having trouble in school. A group of people (teachers, school administrators, parents or foster parents, and sometimes the student) work together to decide what help a student will need. Sometimes the plan includes extra help for the student, like tutoring and different class settings.

**Individual Service Plan (ISP):** A plan that describes the goals in providing a youth with services and how the services will be provided.

**Juvenile Court:** A court that deals only with cases involving children younger than 18 and that are about children who have been abused or neglected or who are accused of being delinquent.

**Kinship Care:** The full-time care of a child by someone who is related to the child by family ties or by a significant prior relationship.

**Notice of Hearings:** A paper that tells people when and where there will be a court hearing that involves them. The child, parents and all the other people important to the case should get notice.

**Permanency Planning:** Plans made by the caseworker to provide a child and his family with help and services to fix the problem that led to the child's placement in foster care. Whenever possible, the goal of the plan is for the child to go home. When that cannot happen, the goal can be for the child to live with a relative, a guardian, be adopted or to stay in foster care until they turn 18.

**Relative Care:** When a child lives with other family members while in the custody of the state. Also called kinship care.

**Relinquishment/Surrender:** When a parent agrees to give up their rights to a child, often so that the child can be adopted by other parents.

**Reunification:** The returning of a child to her parents after she has spent time in foster care.

**Reunification Plan:** A plan to provide services that can bring a family back together by working on the problems that caused the child's placement in foster care.

**System:** A term people often use when they are talking about the network of government organizations that are providing services to children and their families who need help.

**Written Transitional Living Plan:** A case plan that is developed with and for any child 14 or older who is in foster care, to help prepare for the time when they will be living on their own.

**Commonly-Used Acronyms in  
Child Welfare Cases  
Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children**

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
A&D	Adjudicatory and Dispositional Hearing
APPLA	Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CCFA	Comprehensive Child and Family Assessment
CPS	Child Protective Services – a department within DFCS
DFCS	(Georgia) Division of Family and Children Services, a division of the Department of Human Services
DHS	Department of Human Services
DJJ	Department of Juvenile Justice
DSM-IV	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (used in psychological and psychiatric evaluations)
FPS	Family Preservation Services
FTM	Family Team Meeting
GAF	Global Assessment of Functioning (used in psychological evaluations)
GAL	Guardian ad Litem
ICPC	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
IEP	Individualized Educational Program
ILP	Independent Living Program
SAAG	Special Assistant Attorney General – represents DFCS
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
WTLP	Written Transitional Living Plan

# **Your Child is in Foster Care – What is Happening?**

Your case in juvenile court is referred to in Georgia as a “Deprivation Case.”

## **What is deprivation?**

Deprivation of a child means that the child’s needs are not being met due to abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Georgia law:

O.C.G.A. § 15-11-2 (8):

(8) "Deprived child" means a child who:

- (A) Is without proper parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for the child's physical, mental, or emotional health or morals;
- (B) Has been placed for care or adoption in violation of law;
- (C) Has been abandoned by his or her parents or other legal custodian; or
- (D) Is without a parent, guardian, or custodian.

NOTE: A deprivation case is a CIVIL case; it is not a criminal case and you cannot be convicted based upon a finding of deprivation. If the case involves abuse or severe neglect, there may be separate CRIMINAL charges as a result.

## **Who are the parties to a deprivation case?**

1. The Mother
2. If married to the mother, the legal father.
3. If never married to the mother, the putative (“biological”) father.
4. The Guardian ad Litem or CASA for the child.
5. The Department of Family and Children Services.
6. In some cases, a private party may be the petitioner.

**Who else is involved in the case?**

Your child.

Parents’ attorneys.

The Department of Family and Children Services – usually the case manager is in court.

Special Assistant Attorney General – the attorney who represents the Department of Family and Children Services.

Guardian ad Litem – an attorney who represents the best interest of the child, also referred to in some courts as the Child Advocate.

Court Appointed Special Advocate – specially-trained adult volunteer appointed to represent the best interest of the child by some courts (sometimes referred to as a “lay guardian ad litem”).

Foster parents – people with whom your child is placed.

**What are my rights?**

You have a right to be represented by an attorney.

You have a right to notice of hearings.

You have a right to attend hearings.

You have a right to written notice (5 days in advance) of your child’s placement changes, unless the change is due to an emergency.



**Parts of a Deprivation Case**

**Emergency/Probable Cause/72-hour Hearing:**

The very first hearing when a court must determine whether probable cause existed to believe the child was unsafe in the home and to remove the child from the home. At this

hearing, the judge will appoint attorneys for the parties. Be sure to speak with the DFCS case manager so s/he can get to know you.

At this hearing, reports from the social worker, investigator, police officer or any other documents or testimony will be taken into consideration by the court. You have the right to cross-examine the people who testify or prepared any other document submitted to the court, and to present your own evidence.

If probable cause is found, the Court gives DFCS permission to file a petition for deprivation. *Note: if DFCS knows where you are, you must be personally served with the Petition for Deprivation and a Summons.*

The court will make a decision about where the child should be and may consider alternatives such as a relative or even a non-relative if they are close with your child. The court will listen to recommendations by the case manager, and may ask the Guardian ad Litem to make an emergency assessment of the relative's home, including a criminal records check and any prior report alleging child abuse.

The court will consider visitation between the child and others at this hearing, including the child's siblings if they are not placed together.

### **Adjudication/10-day Hearing:**

Sometimes this hearing is called a "trial" because it is the hearing where the judge hears testimony and looks at the facts of the case (evidence) and decides whether the child is being deprived (or not protected by her family). This hearing requires more evidence than the

Emergency hearing. For this hearing there must be clear and convincing evidence that the child is at risk of harm due to abuse or neglect.

You have the right to cross-examine witnesses, present your own evidence, and subpoena witnesses to testify.

If the judge finds the allegations in the petition to be true, the petition will be sustained, and the court will place temporary legal custody of your child with a relative or with DFCS – this is called “disposition.”

It is important to object to and refute any false allegations or unproven statements in the petition because the information in the petition is used as a basis for your case plan, and can be used in future proceedings, including a proceeding to terminate your parental rights.

### **Disposition Hearing:**

Usually takes place right after the adjudication, but sometimes takes place at a later date. The judge decides the best place for the child to live (either with parents, a relative, or in foster care). The judge also tells the parents and DFCS what they need to do to make sure the child will be safe when/if she goes back home. *Note: The judge can grant temporary custody to DFCS for a period of ONE YEAR, or to a relative for a period of TWO YEARS.*

### **Family Team Meeting:**

This is not a court hearing, but a meeting with DFCS and all interested parties, including family members, to help develop a plan for the child and the family. Your case plan will be

developed through this meeting. Family support is important here – suggest relatives who can be a resource for placement or visitation with your child.

### **Review Hearing:**

The first one is usually held when the child has been in foster care for six months, this is a hearing to check on the progress the family is making, whether everyone is following the case plan, and if any other services are needed. Sometimes this hearing is held by the judge, and sometimes it is held with a Citizen's Panel authorized by the Court to make the review. Either way, you should be there. The judge may decide that the child should stay in foster care, return home, or go somewhere else (like with another family member).

### **Permanency Hearing:**

The law requires this hearing when the child has been in custody for 12 months. It is like a review hearing but with a bigger focus on what is going to happen to the child in the long-run: where they will live and how will we get them there as soon as possible. See permanency options discussed below. *Note: DFCS is required by law to tell the Court whether and when they plan to file for a termination of parental rights at this hearing.*

### **Extension Hearing:**

This hearing is usually combined with the permanency hearing. If the child is not being

returned home or permanently placed with a relative, DFCS must file a motion to extend custody. The judge may extend custody for one year. If another year goes by, and the child is still in foster care, DFCS will have to file a new petition for deprivation.

**Non-Reunification Hearing:**

A hearing where the judge decides that because the biological parents did not do what they were required to do for the child to return home, or they have seriously harmed this child or another child, DFCS no longer has to provide services to reunify the family.

**Termination of Parental Rights (TPR):**

Federal law requires that if a child is in foster care for “15 of the last 22 months,” DFCS must file a petition for termination of parental rights unless: (i) the child is being cared for by a relative; (ii) it is not in the best interest of the child; or (iii) DFCS has failed to provide necessary services. 42 U.S.C. § 675(5)(E). If the court decides to terminate parental rights, it means the child can then be adopted. It also means the child’s biological parents no longer have any rights to that child.

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# **Your Child is in Foster Care – Who’s Doing What?**

It is important to remember that Foster Care = **temporary** custody to the State

**What should your attorney do?**

- **Your attorney should:**
  - ❖ Be at all your hearings.
  - ❖ Help you tell the judge what you want to happen in your case.
  - ❖ Call/subpoena witnesses to testify for you.
  - ❖ Ask other witnesses questions (cross-examination).
  - ❖ Tell you what is happening with your case and what it means for you.
  - ❖ Answer your questions and ensure you understand the proceedings.
  - ❖ If you disagree with a court order, your attorney should discuss the pros and cons of filing an appeal and advise you what it requires.

**What should DFCS do?**

In most cases, when the parent of a child in foster care is incarcerated, child welfare agencies should provide services to help reunify the parent and child. Although your case plan should be tailored to you, some of the services DFCS should provide will appear in almost every case plan. Services may include (1) maintaining and nurturing parent-child relationships, (2) treating substance abuse and mental health problems, and (3) enhancing economic stability upon release.

DFCS Policy Manual § 1009.4(9):

An incarcerated parent retains visitation rights. It may be necessary for the county department to arrange for or to provide transportation where agency resources permit. Other forms of meaningful contact can include letters, cards, calls, etc.

“Services to Maintain and Nurture Parent-Child Relationships. DFCS has a responsibility to facilitate appropriate contact between parents and children. While the nature, frequency, and duration of the contact may vary with the age of the child and the parents’ progress toward solving the problems that led to the child’s placement in foster care, contact is critical to maintaining their relationships and preparing for reunification. For children of incarcerated parents, such contact can be infrequent, unpredictable, and of poor quality.”

At the same time, DFCS has a duty to provide “reasonable efforts” to make sure your child has a permanent home.

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# What are the options for permanency?

## 1. **Reunification** – child is either returned to your custody, or placed with a family member

Of course, the best possible outcome if your child goes into foster care is that you have custody of your child returned to you by the court.

There are a few circumstances under which the court may tell DFCS they do not have to try to reunify your family; for example, if you have committed a serious crime against this child or another child, or if your parental rights to another child have been involuntarily terminated.

Otherwise, DFCS is required to provide you with a case plan, which outlines the steps you must take to have your child back in your home. The most important things to do while you are still incarcerated are to maintain a relationship with your child, provide financial support for your child, and do everything you can to work on your case plan.

If your child is in foster care, your correspondence may have to go through the case manager. Be sure to write to your child often, and keep a record of everything you send to your child, including what it is (letter, card, gift), the date it was mailed and the address to which it was mailed. Also, see if you can coordinate a way to call your child on the phone.

Ask if the prison or jail allows you to have visits with your child, and if there is a special area for those visits to take place. Make sure the case manager knows that your child can visit, and during what hours, and be sure to bring it to the court's attention if you are being denied visitation.

Although it is very difficult in prison to provide financial support for your child, see if there is anyone in your family who can help – even if you only send \$20 a month – it shows you care and that you are trying to help your child.

Other things that might be required in a case plan: parenting classes, anger management, drug screens, substance abuse treatment, counseling. Sometimes all of these things are available in prison. Find out how to get these services. It is important for the Court to know everything you are doing on your case plan and it is important that you work diligently – because if you do not, you could lose your children forever.

## **2. Permanent Guardianship**

The Juvenile Court has the authority to grant permanent guardianship to someone who has a relationship with a child and is willing to care for them until they are an adult. Often the permanent guardian may receive financial assistance to care for the child. If your child is 14 or over, they must want this person to be their guardian. Permanent Guardianship does NOT require the Court to terminate your parental rights, and you can maintain your right to visit and have a relationship with your child. You may still have an obligation to financially support your child as well.

### **3. Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement**

This case plan is usually used with older youth who are “stuck” in foster care. Usually their parents’ legal rights have been terminated but they do not have an adoptive home or guardian lined up. This is the least desirable permanency plan because it does little for the child.

### **4. Adoption**

If your child is in foster care for 15 consecutive months (or 15 of the last 22 months), federal law requires the state to file a petition to ask the juvenile court to terminate your parental rights, unless there is a good reason for them to continue working with you, or unless your child is with a relative. The reason for this requirement is so that your child will be “free for adoption,” and can be placed in a permanent home.

Your attorney can explain what the state has to prove in a termination of parental rights case in great detail. However, here is a condensed version of the law:

A decision to terminate parental rights is a two-step process. O.C.G.A. § 15-11-94(a) provides that “in considering the termination of parental rights, the Court shall first determine whether there is present clear and convincing evidence of parental misconduct or inability as provided in O.C.G.A § 15-11-94 (b).” The Court must decide whether the parental misconduct or inability is likely to continue and if yes, whether it will harm the child. Then, the Court must determine whether the termination of parental rights is in the best interest of the child.

Here is a more detailed breakdown of the analysis the Court must make:

I. Analysis of whether there exists present clear and convincing evidence of parental misconduct or inability.

1. Is the child deprived as defined in O.C.G.A. § 15-11-2(8)?
2. Is the lack of proper parental care and control by the parent the cause of the child's status as deprived?

The Court must determine whether any of the following conditions exist:

*(a) A medically verifiable deficiency of the parent's physical, mental, or emotional health of such duration or nature as to render the parent unable to provide adequately for the physical, mental, emotional, or moral condition and needs of the child:*

*(b) Excessive use of or history of chronic unrehabilitated abuse of intoxicating liquors or narcotic or dangerous drugs or controlled substances with the effect of rendering the parent incapable of providing adequately for the physical, mental, emotional, or moral condition and needs of the child:*

*(c) Conviction of the parent of a felony and imprisonment therefore which has a demonstrable negative effect on the quality of the parent/child relationship:*

*(d) Egregious conduct, or evidence of past egregious conduct, of the parent toward the child or toward another child of a physically, emotionally, or sexually cruel or abusive nature:*

*(e) Physical, mental or emotional neglect of the child or evidence of past physical, mental, or emotional neglect of the child or of another child by the parent:*

*(f) Injury or death of a sibling under circumstances which constitute substantial evidence that such injury or death resulted from parental neglect or abuse:*

(g) *Whether the parent without justifiable cause has failed to significantly for a period of one year or longer prior to the filing of the petition for termination of parental rights to develop and maintain a parental bond with the child in a meaningful, supportive manner:*

(h) *whether the parent without justifiable cause has failed to significantly for a period of one year or longer prior to the filing of the petition for termination of parental rights to provide for the care and support of the child as required by law or judicial decree:*

(i) *whether the parent without justifiable cause has failed to significantly for a period of one year or longer prior to the filing of the petition for termination of parental rights to comply with a court ordered plan designed to reunite the child with the parent or parents.*

3. Are the causes of the child's deprivation likely to continue or not likely to be remedied?

4. Will the continued deprivation cause or likely cause serious physical, mental, emotional, or moral harm to the child?

II. Analysis of whether termination of parental rights is in the best interest of the child.

Here is what you must be able to show:

1. That your incarceration does NOT have a “demonstrable negative effect on the quality of your relationship with your child” – that your relationship with your child is still good.
2. That you have NOT failed to maintain a “meaningful bond” with your child for a period of more than a year.
3. That you have NOT failed to provide financial support for your child (even if there is no court order for it).
4. That you have NOT failed to work your case plan.

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# **Termination of Parental Rights:**

## **What Can You Do To Avoid It???**

The case of In re S.B., 267 Ga. App. 203 (2007), tells us what NOT to do:

“The juvenile court found that (1) other than a few phone calls, the mother had no bond or contact with the children in two years, (2) the mother had never contacted or appeared in the juvenile court, (3) the mother never requested an attorney, (4) the mother never paid any child support or sent any gifts to the children, and (5) the mother did not have sufficient income to support the children

The mother had called to speak with the children three times in the past two years and not at all since October 2005. While she was in prison, the mother sent only one letter, never sent birthday or Christmas gifts, and never paid any child support.

The juvenile court denied the mother's motion for new trial, but gave her until September 25, 2006 to provide phone records to support her claim of frequent contact with the children. On October 16, 2006, after the mother had failed to produce any records, the juvenile court issued its final order denying the mother's motion for new trial.”

Do you think the Court of Appeals upheld the termination of the mother's parental rights? Of course it did. The good thing about this case is it gives us the beginning of a check list of things that you **MUST** do that would help you in a termination of parental rights case. See our list below.

## Here is What You Can Do

| <u>What to do</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>How to do it</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Get an attorney by sending a letter to the judge to ask for one. It is VERY important for you to have legal counsel for these proceedings.</p>                                                                                                              | <p>See the sample letter at Tab 1.</p> <p><i>(Remember to send a copy of this to the other parent and/or any other persons who are parties to the case. If you fail to send copies to the other parties or their attorneys, the court will consider this an <u>ex parte</u> communication and may not consider the information).</i></p> |
| <p>2. Make sure DFCS knows how to contact you. Consider providing them the phone number to one or two family members with whom you have frequent contact, as well as your mailing address.</p>                                                                    | <p>See the sample letter at Tab 2.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>3. Make sure your attorney knows how to contact you. Be sure they understand that you want to attend all hearings concerning your child.</p> <p>Also be sure to provide them with ways to contact you – for example, by leaving a message with a relative.</p> | <p>See the sample letter at Tab 3.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>4. Make sure you stay in touch with the Guardian ad Litem/Child Advocate or CASA.</p> <p>This is the person who does a thorough</p>                                                                                                                            | <p>See the sample letter at Tab 4.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| <p>investigation and tells the judge what they believe is in the best interest of your child (in most counties), or represents your child. It is important for them to be able to speak with you and for you to be honest with them and be sure they know how much you want your child to be with you when you are released. They can also recommend that your child be placed with a family member so if there is someone your child is really bonded with, you should let them know.</p> |                                                                            |
| <p>5. Get to hearings – even if you don’t have an attorney.</p> <p><i>As with the first letter to the judge, you must send copies of this to everyone involved in the case or the judge cannot consider your request.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>See the sample production order and cover letter to Judge at Tab 5.</p> |
| <p>6. Make a list of relatives and/or people who have a relationship and a bond with your child. Be sure to include the father and his relatives. Give it to everyone involved with your case.</p> <p>Even if your child’s relatives cannot be a placement resource for your child, maybe they can be a regular visitor. Be sure to ask about this.</p>                                                                                                                                    | <p>See sample chart of Family Resources at Tab 6.</p>                      |
| <p>7. Notify EVERYONE involved in the case of your new address if you are moved or when you are released.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>See sample Notice of Address Change at Tab 7.</p>                       |

8. You need to be able to show the court the work you have done on your case plan, any **support paid** (by you or someone on your behalf), and all contact with your child.

Make sure you add to your record every time you do anything on your case plan or have contact with anyone on your case, right after it happens. Otherwise, it is hard to remember dates and times.

An accurate record of this type will go a long way toward convincing a judge that you truly care about your child and will do whatever you need to so that your child can live with you after you are released.

See sample Journal Page at Tab 8.

See blank Journal Pages at Tab 9.

⌘ Get a notebook or special pad of paper and use it **ONLY** for your child's case.

Write down the date, time and duration of:

\*Every call you make to or about your child.

\*Each visit you have with your child.

\*Each call you make to your child's caregiver or case manager, and what the call was about.

\*Each meeting you have with the case manager.

\*Each call or meeting you have with your lawyer.

\*Each call or meeting you have with the Guardian ad Litem or CASA, and what the call or meeting was about.

**\*Every child support payment you make or someone makes on your behalf.**

⌘ Write frequent letters to your child and **keep copies of every one. Send birthday and Christmas gifts.** If your child is too young to understand letters, draw pictures to send. **Keep copies.**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ Ask to see your child’s report cards.</li> <li>⌘ Go to any available classes, meetings or programs that your detention facility offers that are relevant to your case. Write down the date, time and duration of each class, meeting or program.</li> <li>⌘ Keep copies of certificates or other proof showing that you attended classes, groups or programs (whether in your case plan or not).</li> <li>⌘ Ask the teachers and counselors of any programs you complete to write a letter about how well you did.</li> </ul> |
| <p>9. Ask relatives and friends who know your child to be present in court. Georgia has “open” courtrooms in juvenile cases so your family members will be allowed to attend hearings.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p>10. Find out what services are offered at your facility – for example: parenting classes, substance abuse treatment, counseling, AA/NA meetings, etc.</p> <p>If a certain class or service is required by your case plan, but not available at your facility, ask your attorney to file an objection to the case plan and propose alternatives based on what is available to you.</p> <p>Be sure to include every class or meeting or counseling session you attend in your Journal.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

[Date]

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Juvenile Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]

Re: In the Interest of \_\_\_\_\_  
Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Judge \_\_\_\_\_:

I am the mother of the child named above. I am currently incarcerated at \_\_\_\_\_ . I need an attorney but cannot afford to retain one. I have no income or assets at this time. Please appoint an attorney to represent me.

[I have relatives who can and should have temporary custody of my child. Their names and contact information are listed on the enclosed page.]

I demand notice of every hearing concerning my child, and do not waive my presence for any hearing concerning my child.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Printed Name

[Your] Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

cc: \_\_\_\_\_ [other parent]  
\_\_\_\_\_, DFCS  
\_\_\_\_\_, Attorney for DFCS  
\_\_\_\_\_, Attorney for other parent  
\_\_\_\_\_, Guardian ad Litem/Child Advocate/CASA

[Date]

Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ County Department of  
Family and Children Services  
[Street Address]  
[City, State, Zip]

Re: [Name of Child]  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_:

I am the mother of \_\_\_\_\_, whose date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_.  
I understand that you are the case manager for my child's case. If you are not the case manager,  
please give this letter to the correct case manager or case supervisor for my child.

I want to be sure you know how to contact me. My physical address is listed below. I  
have fairly frequent telephone call with \_\_\_\_\_, who is my  
\_\_\_\_\_. His/her telephone number is (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_. If you need  
to get a message to me, please leave that message with him/her, and it will get to me.

I have requested that an attorney be appointed to represent me in the case. I want to be  
able to visit my child and correspond with my child. I will speak to my family about a way to  
work out telephone calls with my child. I wish to participate in the family team meeting and all  
other meetings about my child.

I am enclosing a listing of my relatives, with their addresses and contact information, and  
request that you place my child with one of them as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Printed Name

[Your] Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Date]

\_\_\_\_\_, Esq.  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]

Re: In the Interest of \_\_\_\_\_  
Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_:

I am the mother of the child named above. I have received notice that you have been appointed to represent me in this case.

I am currently incarcerated at \_\_\_\_\_. Before you were appointed, I sent a letter to the judge and one to DFCS. Please see the attached copies. As I stated in my letter to the judge, I wish to receive notice of every hearing, and I demand to be at every hearing concerning my child. Also, I wish to get a case plan as soon as possible so I can start working on the steps necessary to maintain custody of my child.

[Should you wish to get a message to me, please call my \_\_\_\_\_. Her name is \_\_\_\_\_ and her telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_. I speak with her frequently and will get any message you leave with her for me.] My physical address is listed below.

[I have relatives who can and should have temporary custody of my child. Their names and contact information are listed on the enclosed page. I have already provided this information to DFCS and hope they are working on getting my child placed with a member of my family.]

I appreciate your service and am looking forward to working with you, and hope that we can speak in person very soon.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Printed Name

[Your] Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Date]

Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_, Esq. [if attorney guardian ad litem only]  
[Street address]  
[City, State, Zip]

Re: In the Interest of \_\_\_\_\_  
Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_:

I am the mother of \_\_\_\_\_, the child named above. I am currently incarcerated at \_\_\_\_\_.

I am writing this letter to make sure you know my address and how to reach me. My physical address is listed below. [Should you wish to get a message to me, please call my \_\_\_\_\_]. Her name is \_\_\_\_\_ and her telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_ . I speak with her frequently and will get any message you leave with her for me.]

[I have relatives who can and should have temporary custody of my child. Their names and contact information are listed on the enclosed page. I have already provided this information to DFCS and hope they are working on getting my child placed with a member of my family.]

I appreciate your service and am looking forward to working with you, and hope that we can speak in person very soon.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Printed name]

[Your] Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN THE INTEREST OF:** )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_, ) **CASE NO.**  
**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF PRISONER**

It appearing to this Court that \_\_\_\_\_, a party in the above-styled case, is presently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections/Pulaski State Prison and that it is necessary that such prisoner be presented before this Court in the above-styled case:

IT IS CONSIDERED, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Sheriff of \_\_\_\_\_ County or his lawful deputy transport the prisoner to the \_\_\_\_\_ County Juvenile Court on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. for the court appearance in the above-named and stated case, after which such prisoner shall be returned by the Sheriff of Paulding County, or his lawful deputy, to the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections/Pulaski State Prison.

SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge  
Juvenile Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County

[Date]

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Juvenile Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]

Re: In the Interest of \_\_\_\_\_  
Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Judge \_\_\_\_\_:

I am the mother of the child named above. I am currently incarcerated at \_\_\_\_\_ . I do not have an attorney representing me in this case.

I am enclosing a proposed production order so that I may be transported to the hearing that is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ concerning my child. I do not waive my right to be present at this or any hearing in this case.

Please sign the production order to have me transported to this hearing. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Printed Name

[Your] Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

cc (with enclosure): \_\_\_\_\_ [other parent]  
\_\_\_\_\_, DFCS  
\_\_\_\_\_, Attorney for DFCS  
\_\_\_\_\_, Attorney for other parent  
\_\_\_\_\_, Guardian ad Litem/Child Advocate/CASA

## FAMILY RESOURCES

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Father:** \_\_\_\_\_

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>E-mail</u> | <u>Relationship<br/>to Child</u> | <u>Involvement with Child</u> |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|             |                |              |               |                                  |                               |
|             |                |              |               |                                  |                               |
|             |                |              |               |                                  |                               |
|             |                |              |               |                                  |                               |

[Date]

Clerk of Juvenile Court  
[Address]

\_\_\_\_\_, Esq. [your attorney]  
[Address]

\_\_\_\_\_, Esq. [Guardian ad Litem]  
[Address]

Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ [Case Manager]  
\_\_\_\_\_ County DFCS  
[Address]

Regarding \_\_\_\_\_  
Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE OF ADDRESS CHANGE

I am the mother of the child named above. This is to notify you that my address has changed. My new address is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_ [signature]  
[Printed Name]

## JOURNAL

### Telephone Contact:

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Person Contacted/Subject Matter of Call</b> | <b>Duration of Call</b> |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/28/12     | Attorney – hearing date on 2/15                | 5 min.                  |
| 1/29/12     | Mom so I can talk to kids                      | 15 min.                 |
|             |                                                |                         |
|             |                                                |                         |
|             |                                                |                         |
|             |                                                |                         |

### Meetings:

| <b>Date</b> | <b>With Whom Visited</b>       | <b>Duration of Visit</b> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/25/12     | Guardian – interviewed me here | 1 hour                   |
|             |                                |                          |
|             |                                |                          |
|             |                                |                          |
|             |                                |                          |
|             |                                |                          |

### Visitation:

| <b>Date</b> | <b>With Whom Visited</b> | <b>Duration of Visit</b> |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2/3/12      | Mom, Karla and James     | 1 hour                   |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |

**Classes:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Class Attended</b> | <b>Duration of Class</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/15/12     | Parenting class       | 2 hours                  |
|             |                       |                          |
|             |                       |                          |
|             |                       |                          |
|             |                       |                          |

**Therapy/Substance Abuse Counseling/Etc.**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Type of Therapy</b> | <b>Counselor Name</b> | <b>Duration of Session</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1/20/12     | Sub. Abuse Group       | Joe Therapist         | 1 hour                     |
| 1/22/12     | Sub. Abuse             | Jean Therapist        | 1/2 hour                   |
|             |                        |                       |                            |
|             |                        |                       |                            |
|             |                        |                       |                            |
|             |                        |                       |                            |

**Mail Sent (include letters, cards, gifts):**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Item Sent</b> | <b>To Whom Sent</b> |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |

**Support paid:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Amount and method sent (i.e., money order)</b> | <b>To Whom Sent</b> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2/1/12      | Mom sent money order \$25                         | DFCS                |
|             |                                                   |                     |
|             |                                                   |                     |
|             |                                                   |                     |

**JOURNAL**

**Telephone Contact:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Person Contacted/Subject Matter of Call</b> | <b>Duration of Call</b> |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|             |                                                |                         |
|             |                                                |                         |
|             |                                                |                         |
|             |                                                |                         |
|             |                                                |                         |
|             |                                                |                         |

**Meetings:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>With Whom Visited</b> | <b>Duration of Visit</b> |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |

**Visitation:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>With Whom Visited</b> | <b>Duration of Visit</b> |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |
|             |                          |                          |

**Classes:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Class Attended</b> | <b>Duration of Class</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
|             |                       |                          |
|             |                       |                          |
|             |                       |                          |
|             |                       |                          |

**Therapy/Substance Abuse Counseling/Etc.**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Type of Therapy</b> | <b>Counselor Name</b> | <b>Duration of Session</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
|             |                        |                       |                            |
|             |                        |                       |                            |
|             |                        |                       |                            |
|             |                        |                       |                            |
|             |                        |                       |                            |
|             |                        |                       |                            |

**Mail Sent (include letters, cards, gifts):**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Item Sent</b> | <b>To Whom Sent</b> |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |
|             |                  |                     |

**Support paid:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Amount and method sent (i.e., money order)</b> | <b>To Whom Sent</b> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|             |                                                   |                     |
|             |                                                   |                     |
|             |                                                   |                     |
|             |                                                   |                     |
|             |                                                   |                     |
|             |                                                   |                     |

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE:

\_\_\_\_\_, a minor child

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION

COMES NOW \_\_\_\_\_ [your name] \_\_\_\_\_, [mother/father/guardian] of the child named above, and hereby moves this court for relief as follows:

[Use this section to tell the court what it is you are asking for].

\_\_\_\_\_ requests that a hearing be scheduled on this motion at the earliest possible date, and that she be transported to said hearing. *[Note: you should attach a draft of a production order – available in the manual we left for the library].*

Respectfully submitted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ [signature]

PRO SE

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

[Your address]

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this day served the within and foregoing MOTION upon all parties by depositing a true and correct copy of same in the United States mail, with first class postage affixed thereto, and properly addressed as follows:

*[Note: you must send a copy to every other party to this case, or their attorney if they have one.]*

\_\_\_\_\_, Esq., SAAG

[Address]

\_\_\_\_\_, Esq., Guardian ad Litem

[Address]

\_\_\_\_\_, Esq., Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_

[Address]

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ [signature]

PRO SE

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

[Your address]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Special Information

### Appeals

The purpose of an appeal is to determine whether the juvenile court judge made a legal error such as misinterpreting the law or allowing into evidence testimony that should not have been admitted. If the appellate court determines that the trial judge did make a material legal error (that is, one that affected the outcome of the trial), it may send the case back to the same judge (or some other judge in the original judge's court) with instructions to correct the mistake. The way to correct the mistake is often for the judge to schedule the case for a whole new trial.

An appeal is generally not a way of questioning the trial judge's factual conclusions. For example: suppose the juvenile court judge concludes that it is in the best interest of the child to terminate the mother's parental rights so the child may be adopted. In order to prevail on appeal, the mother must do more than simply argue to the appellate court that it was not in the child's best interest to terminate her parental rights; she must demonstrate that the juvenile court judge reached the wrong conclusion because he or she made a mistake in applying the law during the trial.

When your attorney makes objections to evidence at trial, they are also preserving the record for appeal. The only information the Court of Appeals will receive is what is included in the trial record, so it is important for your attorney to make such objections when he or she believes the court has made an error.

The appellate court will generally not second-guess factual conclusions that the trial judge has reached, because the appellate court does not take testimony or hear witnesses. Rather, the appellate court reads the arguments of the lawyers to determine if the trial judge made a legal error that affected the outcome of the trial. If so, in most cases the case will be returned to the trial court to have the error corrected.

A decision to appeal must be carefully considered, and you should discuss it with your attorney immediately after the judge issues an order, or you may lose your opportunity to file an appeal. The deadlines are short on appeals. Unfortunately, the appellate process takes approximately one to two years. That is a very long time in the life of a child.

## **Indian Child Welfare Act**

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is based on the belief that “it is in the best interest of an American Indian Child that the role of the tribal community in the child’s life be protected.” (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1902). ICWA applies to temporary placement situations and to court proceedings that result in adoption or termination of parental rights. ICWA does not apply to disputes between parents in a divorce action. (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.)

If you and/or your child are of Native American heritage, you must tell your lawyer, the DFCS case manager or CPS investigator immediately. If the court finds that you and/or your child are active members of an Indian Tribe, it must work toward maintaining the stability of this tie to the tribe when determining placement of your child in a foster home or in the home of a guardian. The court will do this by contacting the tribe to seek its input and assistance.

## **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status**

What is Special Immigrant Juvenile Status?

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is a way for a dependent of juvenile dependency court to become a permanent resident of the United States (meaning, get a “green card”). If the juvenile applies for this status and is successful, s/he may remain in the U.S., work legally, qualify for in-state tuition at college, and in five years apply for U.S. citizenship. However, if the application is denied, the child might be deported.

Who qualifies for SIJS?

In order to qualify for SIJS, the child must have been declared to be a dependent of a U.S. juvenile dependency court OR the child must have been legally committed to, or placed under the custody of, a state agency or department, or an individual or entity appointed by a state (such as a guardian), by a juvenile dependency court. The court must have found the child “eligible for long-term foster care” (which in this context means that parental reunification is not possible), and that it is not in the child’s best interest to be returned to the home country. The court must have made its findings based on the abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis found under state law.

Who can complete the application?

The child, a caseworker, or an attorney can complete the application for SIJS, which will be submitted to the Citizen and Immigration Service (CIS) bureau of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The child must complete CIS forms, obtain a special medical exam, and provide fingerprints, a photograph, and proof of age. The application must include an order from a dependency court that the child is eligible for long-term foster care due to abuse, neglect

or abandonment. There is a fee for the application process, but a fee waiver is available. The CIS will grant the applicant employment authorization as soon as the application is filed, and schedule a date for the SIJS interview. Generally, the CIS will decide the case at the time of the SIJS interview.

NOTE: It is important to apply for SIJS as soon as possible while the child is a dependent in the juvenile dependency court because it may take from 6 to 18 months after submitting the application to get an SIJS interview. If the child is emancipated before the interview takes place, the current policy is to deny the application. For more information on this issue, consult an attorney who specializes in immigration law or contact one of the following resources:

**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta**  
Atlanta, GA  
[www.cssatlanta.com](http://www.cssatlanta.com)

**The International Rescue Committee**  
Atlanta, GA  
[www.theirc.org/where/the\\_irc\\_in\\_atlanta.html](http://www.theirc.org/where/the_irc_in_atlanta.html)

**Lutheran Services of Georgia**  
Atlanta, GA  
[www.lsga.org](http://www.lsga.org)

**Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta**  
Decatur, GA  
[www.rrisa.org](http://www.rrisa.org)

**World Relief Atlanta**  
Atlanta, GA  
[atlanta.wr.org](http://atlanta.wr.org)

## Resources

### Love Beyond Bars

<http://www.lovebeyondbars.com/index.html>

### Love Beyond Bars Program Inc.

PO Box 490507

Atlanta, GA 30349

Phone: (404) 696-2225

Toll-Free: (877) 842-1447

### OUR MISSION

- ▶ To Educate and Rehabilitate Parents in Jail
- ▶ To Assist Families Effected by the AIDS Virus
- ▶ To House, Feed, Clothe, and Educate Children in Need

Welcome to **Love Beyond Bars, Inc.**, an Atlanta, Georgia-based community outreach program that provides valuable assistance for underprivileged families, at-risk youth, and children of incarcerated parents. Our mission is to change lives by addressing the problems faced by families in crisis. [Contact us](#) today at (877) 842-1447 to learn more about [what we offer](#).

### Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers

524 Larkin St. SW

Atlanta, GA 30313

Provides information to all incarcerated mothers. Direct social services to mothers in Atlanta area.

### **Forever Family (formerly Aid for Imprisoned Mothers)**

We focus our efforts on children with an incarcerated parent or parents and support them as they, their parents, caregivers and extended families work to remain a family.

<http://www.foreverfam.org/>

387 Joseph W. Lowery Boulevard  
Second Floor, Suite A  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310  
(404) 223-1200

### **[when] Parents Aren't There to Help (PATH)**

Area Served: Henry, Clayton and South Metro Counties  
Parent Organization: HOPE Family Ministries

Telephone: 770 471-5574  
Address: 107 Flippen Road

PO Box 1520

Stockbridge, GA 30281  
E-mail: [hopefamily107@bellsouth.net](mailto:hopefamily107@bellsouth.net)

Web site: [www.hopefamilyministries.org](http://www.hopefamilyministries.org)

Secondary Office: None

Established: 2001

Volunteer/Internship Opportunities?: Yes

PATH is a mentoring and family intervention program for children whose parents are incarcerated.

### **Meeting of the Hearts Mentoring Program**

Area Served: DeKalb County, Georgia  
Parent Organization: None

Telephone: 404-270-1178  
Address: 39 Rogers Street

Atlanta, GA 30058  
E-mail: [moth@co.dekalb.ga.us](mailto:moth@co.dekalb.ga.us)

Established: 2006

We are a mentoring program for children in DeKalb County GA. who have incarcerated parents.

### **Mentoring Children of Promise in Central Georgia**

Area Served: 15 counties in Central Georgia: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Greene, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Peach, Putnam, Twiggs, Washington, Wilkinson  
Parent Organization: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia

Telephone: 478-745-3984

Address: 777 Walnut Street

Macon, GA 31201

E-mail: Dianna.Glymph@bbbs.org

Web site: [www.bbbsheartga.org](http://www.bbbsheartga.org)

Secondary Office: 320 Hancock, Milledgeville, GA31061

Established: 1953

Volunteer/Internship Opportunities?: Yes

Provide screened and trained mentors for children of incarcerated parents.

### **The Family Center of South DeKalb, LLC**

Area Served: Georgia, DeKalb, Fulton and Rockdale counties

Telephone: 678-418-0890

Address: 5000 Snapfinger Woods Drive

Decatur, GA 30035

E-mail: [dr.janie@hotmail.com](mailto:dr.janie@hotmail.com)

Web site: [www.fcosd.org](http://www.fcosd.org)

Established: 2003

Counseling Services to families and individuals who have experienced incarceration. Program also provides the A.C.T. program (Assertive Community Treatment) to persons who have a mental health diagnosis. To participate in the A.C.T. program, individuals must have Medicaid.

### **Active Parenting Publishing**

This curriculum publisher has a variety of books and resources specifically designed for the children and families of inmates. Mamma Loves Me From Away and A Visit With Daddy are two of their large selection.

<http://www.activeparenting.com/prisonprograms.htm>

[cservice@activeparenting.com](mailto:cservice@activeparenting.com)

(800) 825-0060

1955 Vaughn Rd, NW

Suite 108

Kennesaw Georgia 30144-7808 United States of America

### **Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents**

CCIP's mission is the prevention of intergenerational crime and incarceration. Its goals are the production of high quality documentation on and the development of model services for children of criminal offenders and their families. CCIP provides research and resource information in four pivotal areas: education (parenting classes, etc.), family reunification, therapeutic services and information.

<http://e-ccip.org/index.html>

[ccip@earthlink.net](mailto:ccip@earthlink.net)

(626) 449-2470

P.O. Box 41-286

Eagle Rock California 90041 United States of America