



*State of North Carolina
Department of Public Safety
Prisons*

Chapter: E
Section: .2300
Title: **Parenting Programs**
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POLICY & PROCEDURES

References

5th Edition Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions

Related ACA Standards

5-ACI-5E-01, 5-ACI-7B-13

.2301 General

The education program coordinates with other institutional services to provide instruction in functional social skills (5-ACI-7B-13).

Parenting programs operate under the general guidance of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Rehabilitative Services Section, which provides coordination and monitoring of the programs. Prison facility Program staff coordinates and facilitates in planning, developing, and operating the parenting programs, which are available to all **offenders**. The methods of delivering the program are adapted to each facility and are either delivered by full-time prison staff, community college staff, volunteers, ancillary agencies, through procurement of contracts, and/or a combination of all.

.2302 Purpose

The purpose of parenting programs is to provide education and skills on parenting, promote and reinforce positive relationships, enhance family values, and to offer support and nurturing among **offenders** and their families. Parenting programs give the **offender** an opportunity to counteract negative family consequences resulting from their incarceration and to assist in positive reunification upon the **offender's** release. Additionally, the purpose is to provide opportunities for **offenders** to maintain positive contact with their families during their incarceration.

.2303 Policy

There is a social service program that provides a range of resources appropriate to the needs of inmates, including individual and family counseling, family planning and parental education and community services (5-ACI-5E-01).

- (a) Programs incorporate several components of information, education, and assistance. Some facilities provide all components and others provide only one of more components of the program. Components offered may include:

- (1) Parenting skills to maintain or build family relationships while incarcerated and to accomplish age-appropriate communication with **their** children to include, but not limited to, fostering self-esteem, appropriate discipline, sibling rivalry, childhood development stages, etc.
 - (2) Skills for family support such as analyzing family needs, managing a budget, and /or developing skills to cope with change and setting priorities.
 - (3) Family literacy education to provide **offenders** with information on the importance of raising the reading level of children and other family members; motivating family interest in reading and writing to each other; effective tutoring skills, and compiling a list of education resources to assist in family literacy for the **offender** as well as **their** family members.
 - (4) Substance abuse education and information on the effects of parental use of addictive substances on children along with strategies to break substance abuse addiction, to include the use of and organization of support groups.
 - (5) Prenatal care information for expectant mothers such as achieving and/or maintaining physical fitness, developing and/or maintaining a proper diet, education on childbirth procedures, and providing appropriate infant care.
- (b) **Offender** Selection and Eligibility
- (1) **Offenders** may be referred by **their** Social Worker, Case Manager, or other appropriate staff, self-referral, the Department of Social Services agencies, Courts, or other local and state agencies.
 - (2) **Offender** participation is voluntary. No merit time is given for participation.
 - (3) Priority for participation must be given to the **offender** who is a parent, grandparent, or a parent-to-be. The **offender** should have the desire to become a responsible parent to **their** children and have a desire to mend relationships.
 - (4) **Offenders** with sex offenses and/or crimes against children shall not be allowed to participate in a parenting program where the program involves direct and/or indirect contact, sight, and communication with the child/children. **Offenders** with these types of offenses may participate in “educational only” type parenting programs.
 - (5) Referrals must be carefully screened by the Social Worker, Case Manager or Coordinator for participation in a parenting program to ensure that these criteria are met before assignment of an **offender** to a parenting program.



Commissioner of Prisons

September 23, 2021

Date

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