

refuse visits, but this is not typical. Generally, the desire to see the child wins out.

Second, the very fact of incarceration and separation from their families will heighten a parent's interest. For many, it is the first chance they may have to reflect on their past actions, particularly as it relates to their children and many want to do better.⁽⁸⁾

I would like to add that Massachusetts prisons are among the best for visiting. The rooms are fairly large, there are toys and child size equipment in several major prisons--I am especially familiar with programs in Walpole, Norfolk and Framingham, all of which make accommodations for children's visits. More importantly, there are contact visits, parents are permitted to hold and hug their youngsters.

Third, visits maintain family communication. This becomes important when we realize that over 80% of incarcerated women expect to resume care of their dependent children.⁽⁹⁾ Again, we have no comparable figures for the men, but it is anticipated that a significant number return to their wives and children.

Fourth, a strong family unit assists the inmates in reintegrating into society. Some of the most quoted correction statistics describe a positive correlation between the maintenance of family interest and parole success.^(10,11)

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court recognizes a parents right to see a child. The law as applied to parents generally, should be applied no less to inmates.