

# Parental and Caregiver Incarceration Resources

## Websites:

<https://www.projectavary.org/>

PROJECT AVARY is a national leader in supporting children with incarcerated parents

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/children-of-incarcerated-parents>

Children of Incarcerated Parents

<https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/>

This website provides a range of information and resources to assist children and families of the incarcerated, including:

- research publications,
- training materials,
- fact sheets,
- frequently asked questions documents,
- and more.

<https://www.apa.org/topics/parenting/resilience-tip-tool?tab=3>

This tool was developed to help parents develop resilience in their children, which can prepare them to face and overcome negative experiences throughout life. The tool provides information for fostering resilience in the home, the neighborhood and community, the child care environment, and at school.

[https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media\\_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC\\_MySuperSTars\\_1\\_0.pdf?\\_ga=2.51045537.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125](https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC_MySuperSTars_1_0.pdf?_ga=2.51045537.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125)

Incarceration: My Super Stars; Make this mobile to remind you of the people who care for you at home, at school, or anywhere.

[https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media\\_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC\\_Tip\\_Sheet\\_eng\\_FINAL\\_1.pdf?\\_ga=2.51045537.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125](https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC_Tip_Sheet_eng_FINAL_1.pdf?_ga=2.51045537.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125)

Incarceration: Tips for Parents and Caregivers; Tips for parents and caregivers of children dealing with a family member's incarceration.

[https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media\\_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC\\_Incarceration\\_CC\\_G\\_ENG\\_1.pdf?\\_ga=2.84257553.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125](https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC_Incarceration_CC_G_ENG_1.pdf?_ga=2.84257553.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125)

For Caregivers: Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration; Incarceration guide for caregivers and parents.

[https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media\\_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC\\_incarceration\\_KB\\_ENG\\_1.pdf?\\_ga=2.52136097.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125](https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC_incarceration_KB_ENG_1.pdf?_ga=2.52136097.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125)

Incarceration: In My Family Storybook; In My Family storybook for Little Children, Big Families: Incarceration.

[https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media\\_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC\\_HowFeeling\\_1\\_0.pdf?\\_ga=2.119320449.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125](https://prod.drupal.aws.sesamestreet.org/sites/default/files/media_folders/Media%20Root/LCBC_HowFeeling_1_0.pdf?_ga=2.119320449.920770709.1688480125-837445537.1688480125)

Incarceration: How Am I Feeling? Activity; This poster can help you name, show, and talk about your feelings anytime.

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/children-of-incarcerated-parents/listening-session>

In June 2016, the federal government hosted a listening session with youth from across the country who have or have had an incarcerated parent. The listening session brought together 19 youth, ages 15 to 23, with a diverse range of experiences to discuss the challenges they had during their parent's incarceration and their ideas for how the government could better support them and their families. Participants' ideas and feedback from the session were used to inform the products found on this website.

<https://www.kidsmates.org/>

Developing Resilience in the Face of Parental Incarceration

<https://www.kidsmates.org/post/tips-for-a-successful-visit-with-your-incarcerated-parent>

Tips for a Successful Visit with Your Incarcerated Parent, written By Ava Martoma, Age 12

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/supporting/support-services/incarceration/>

Supporting Children and Families Affected by Parental Incarceration

<https://nicic.gov/resources/resources-topics-and-roles/topics/children-incarcerated-parents>

Children of Incarcerated Parents: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections; Provides comprehensive resources on research and policy regarding the rights of children of incarcerated parents.

<https://partnersinhealing.counselinginschools.org/building-strength-and-capacity/take-5-for-self-care>

Self Care Tips and Resources: Explore actions and routines that can help you heal. Created by Partners in Healing.

<http://ctcip.org/main-childrens-page/>

Understanding the Criminal Justice System: Interactive guide for school-aged children by the CT Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative

<https://www.susu-osborne.org/see-us-support-us-youth-resource-toolkit>

Resources for Children and Youth of Incarcerated Parents

<https://rainbows.org/resources/incarceration/>

COPING WITH INCARCERATION: Supporting Children Experiencing Parental Incarceration

## Articles/Guides/Tipsheets:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/antisocial-behavior-adolescent-children-incarcerated-parents-developmental-perspective-0>

*The Antisocial Behavior of the Adolescent Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Developmental Perspective*, discusses the link between parent incarceration and antisocial behavior in adolescents, how it develops overtime, why this issue is important to address, and how to address it.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/effects-parental-incarceration-young-children-0>

*Effects of Parental Incarceration on Young Children*, addresses the reactions of children with incarcerated parents, as well as: ways of modifying those effects, programs that can help both the parent and the child, how to adopt a whole family approach and why this discussion should inform research and policy issues.

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/B3%20Literature%20Review\\_508\\_MDRC.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/B3%20Literature%20Review_508_MDRC.pdf)

To learn more about the importance of family-strengthening programs for families dealing with parental incarceration, read *Promising Practices for Strengthening Families Affected by Parental Incarceration: A Review of the Literature*.

<https://youth.gov/sites/default/files/IWGY-1-Arrest-Guide-508.pdf>

*Guide for Families Experiencing the Criminal Justice System: Guide for Arrest, Jail Time/Detention, Trial/Hearing, and Sentencing Stages* (Guide 1 of 3) (PDF, 9 pages). Families have unique needs and challenges when a parent is arrested. When this happens, family members—including the children—are affected. This guide covers the first four stages in the typical criminal justice process: arrest (entry into the system), jail time/detention (prosecution and pretrial services), hearing/trial (adjudication), and sentencing (before incarceration).

<https://youth.gov/sites/default/files/IWGY-2-Incarceration-Guide-508.pdf>

*Guide for Families Experiencing the Criminal Justice System: Guide for Incarceration Stage* (Guide 2 of 3) (PDF, 11 pages). Families and children have unique needs when a parent is incarcerated. When this happens, a family gets involved with the criminal justice system in stages. The tips and tools in this guide aim to help families care for the children of incarcerated parents by maintaining and strengthening communication, managing and strengthening relationships, and managing stress and emotions and promoting self-care and care for the children during the incarceration stage.

<https://youth.gov/sites/default/files/IWGY-3-Reentry-Guide-508.pdf>

*Guide for Families Experiencing the Criminal Justice System: Guide for Reentry Stage* (Guide 3 of 3) (PDF, 6 pages). Families and children have unique needs when a parent is incarcerated. When this happens, a family gets involved with the justice system in stages. These questions and tips about reentry will promote a family's ability to keep and strengthen communication and relationships, manage stress and emotions, and prioritize the caregiver's self-care and care for the children.

<https://youth.gov/sites/default/files/COIP-Parent-Guide-508.pdf>

*Guide for Incarcerated Parents Who Have Children in the Child Welfare System* (PDF, 34 pages). The purpose of this guide is to help parents involved in the criminal justice system work with the child welfare system to stay in touch with their children and stay involved in decisions about their children's well-being. The guide also includes important information on steps required by the child welfare system for reunification, or having children return home to their family after foster care. Child welfare and social work professionals may also benefit from this guide to inform work with incarcerated parents, their children, and the caregivers.

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/children-of-incarcerated-parents/listening-sessions/tip-sheet-for-youth-coip>

Tip Sheet for Youth: Youth Supporting Fellow Youth Who Have an Incarcerated Parent

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/emotional-wellness/Building-Resilience/Pages/Tips-to-Support-Children-When-a-Parent-is-in-Prison.aspx>

Tips to Support Children When a Parent Is in Prison, Martoma (2020, HealthyChildren.org). Provides information to better support children during the time their parent(s) are incarcerated.

<https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-asharedsentence-2016.pdf#page=8>

A Shared Sentence: The Devastating Toll of Parental Incarceration on Kids, Families and Communities, a Annie E. Casey Foundation 2016 Policy Report.

## Books:

- **Bounce Back: How to Be A Resilient Kid** by Wendy L. Moss, PhD
- **The Hugging Tree: A Story About Resilience** by Jill Neimark
- **Visiting Feelings** by Lauren J. Rubenstein
- **Missing Daddy** by Kaba, Mariame
- **Far Apart, Close in Heart Being A Family When A Loved One Is Incarcerated** by Birtha, Becky
  - This book is an excellent entry to discuss incarceration in an age-appropriate way or as a tool for children as they work through their complicated feelings.
- **Visiting Day by Woodson**, Jacqueline
  - This picture book for children tells the story of a young girl and her grandmother visiting the girl's father in prison.
- **The Night Dad Went to Jail: What to Expect When Someone You Love Goes to Jail** by Higgins, Melissa
  - This picture book for children tells the story of a young child whose father has been incarcerated.
- **Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me** by Beaty, Daniel
  - In this picture book for children a boy wakes up one morning to find his father gone. At first, he feels lost. But his father has left him a letter filled with advice to guide him through the times he cannot be there.
- **Mama Loves Me From Away** by Brisson, Pat
  - This picture book for children tells the story of a mother and daughter separated by the mother's incarceration and the special way they keep their loving relationship alive.
- **Sunny Holiday** by Paratore, Coleen
  - In this children's chapter book, spunky third-grader Sunny Holiday tries to make the best out of every situation, and even though her father is in prison, she and her mother count their blessings and manage to find joy in every day.
- **All the Things You Are** by Sheinmel, Courtney
  - This children's chapter book is written in an easy style and features interesting relationships. It accurately portrays the process of arrest, a prison e... Show more
- **The Year the Swallows Came Early by Fitzmaurice**, Kathryn
  - In this chapter book for children, 11-year-old, Groovy Robinson must decide if she can forgive the failings of someone she loves, after her father is sent to jail.
- **Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart: The Story of Amber and Essie Told Here in Poems and Pictures** by Williams, Vera B.
  - In this chapter book for children, two sisters help each other deal with life while their mother is working and their father has been sent to jail.
- **Freaky Fast Frankie Joe** by Clifton, Lutricia
  - This children's book is about Frankie Joe, whose mother goes to jail, and he must move from Texas to Illinois to live with his father and four half brothe...Show more
- **Harry Sue** by Stauffacher, Sue
  - This children's chapter book is about tough-talking Harry Sue who would like to start a life of crime in order to be find her incarcerated mother, but first she must first protect the children at her neglectful grandmother's home day care center and befriend a paralyzed boy.
- **What Will Happen to Me?** by Zehr, Howard
  - This book for teens and adults brings together photographic portraits of 30 children whose parents are incarcerated, along with their thoughts and reflections, in their own words.
- **Mexican Whiteboy** by de la Peña, Matt
  - In this teen chapter book, sixteen-year-old Danny searches for his identity amidst the confusion of being half-Mexican and half-white while spending a summer with his cousin and new friends on the baseball fields and back alleys of San Diego County, California.

- **After Tupac and D Foster** by Woodson, Jacqueline
  - This teen chapter book takes place in the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.
- **Do Not Pass Go by Hill**, Kirkpatrick
  - In this chapter book for older children and teens, Deet's father is jailed for using drugs, Deet learns that prison is not what he expected, nor are other people necessarily the way he thought they were.
- **The Not-just-anybody Family** by Byars, Betsy Cromer
  - In this chapter book for children, Maggie and Vern try to settle family problems, including a young brother in the hospital, a grandfather in jail, and their mother traveling with a rodeo.
- **Tyrell** by Booth, Coe
  - In this chapter book for teens, fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he does not end up in jail like his father.
- **Doing Time Together: Love and Family in the Shadow of the Prison** by Comfort, Megan
  - Doing Time Together vividly details the ways that prisons shape and infiltrate the lives of women with loved ones on the inside.
- **Milo Imagines the World** by Matt de la Pena
  - Milo travels on the subway with his sister, his anxiety making him feel like a shook-up soda, even though it's a weekly ride. He observes the people around him and in his notebook, draws and writes stories about them. They arrive at their stop and he's surprised to see a boy that he noticed before, a boy wearing a suit in line at the jail, too. Milo realizes you can't tell people's stories just by their appearance. Then, he and his sister get to hug their mom and visit with her.
- **Hazelnut Days** by Emmanuel Bourdier
  - The boy's relationship with his dad who is in prison is complicated. His dad has a short temper but he's also funny and strong. At school, he doesn't know what to tell other kids about what his dad does. He thinks, "Sometimes I hate Dad when I see Mom's sad eyes." This is a worthy addition to school libraries because it addresses important subjects that aren't often discussed.
- **From the Desk of Zoe Washington** by Janae Marks (ages 9 – 12)
  - On her 12th birthday, Zoe, a girl who loves to bake, discovers a letter from her incarcerated biological father, Marcus. She decides to write him back, even daring to ask him about the murder he's in jail for — did he really do it? Marcus writes to Zoe that he's innocent and he can prove it which sets Zoe on a quest to find out the truth for herself, even if her mom and dad forbid it. She enlists the help of her Grandma and her best friend, Trevor. You won't be able to put down this winsome story with a heroine you can't help but adore; a story that illuminates social justice with themes of family, friendship, and love.
- **Harbor Me** by Jacqueline Woodson (ages 9 – 12)
  - Harbor Me tackles some very big issues including race, immigration, bullying, learning differences, friendship, and forgiveness. The story is about six diverse children with learning differences. They bond during a special kids-only time on Friday afternoons where they share their stories, many of which Haley records on a tape recorder. Even as she learns about the other kids who are, Haley is reluctant to share that her own dad is in jail for the car accident killing her mother. When she does eventually share, it's beautiful to see the other kids support her. This well-written story deserves to be discussed as it has a wealth of ideas to ponder.
- **All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook** by Leslie Connor (ages 9 – 12)
  - This book hooked me from the first page, taking me on a coming-of-age story that was both heartbreaking and filled with hope. Perry is well-loved by his mother and her friends— in prison. That's where Perry has lived since he was born eleven years ago. But in an unexpected and unpleasant turn of events, his best friend's stepfather, the new District Attorney, forces Perry to leave the prison. Not only that, the DA tries to stall Perry's mother's parole hearing. Perry discovers the stories behind the

inmates' lives, hoping that they'll be helpful in reuniting him with his mother. This story will stay with you long after you read the last page.

- **Born Behind Bars** by Padma Venkatraman (ages 9 – 12)
  - Kabir is too old to continue living in jail with his mom who was unjustly imprisoned. He's forced to leave the jail without his mom and quickly realizes that his so-called uncle is trying to sell him into slavery. Kabir runs away and meets a worldly-wise girl named Rani who helps him survive the streets. Together, the two journey to another city where they hope Kabir's grandparents live and where Kabir and Rani find kindness and second chances. This powerful story illuminates the problem of homelessness and the justice system in India, yet gives readers hope in human kindness and the possibilities of change. I honestly felt like crying with joy during the last third of the book — it so emotionally resonates.
- **Mountain Dog** by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Aleksey & Olga Ivanov (ages 9 – 12)
  - When Tony's mother is sent to jail, Tony is sent to stay with a great uncle he has never met in the Sierra Nevada mountains. With his tió and a search-and-rescue dog named Gabe by his side, Tony learns how to track wild animals, is welcomed to the Cowboy Church, and makes new friends at the Mountain School. Most importantly, his uncle Gabe shows Tony what unconditional love is — for the first time in his life.
- **Fighting Words** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (ages 10+)
  - Della's drug-addicted, psychotic mom is in jail, and after something bad happened...Della and her older sister Suki are in foster care with a woman named Francine. They're not necessarily loved, but for once, they are safe. As Della's story unfolds, we learn that Suki saved Della from their mom's boyfriend Clifton. We suspect that Suki was sexually abused also but we don't know until much later in the story after a suicide attempt. When both girls start going to therapy, Della learns strategies for anxiety that sometimes work, and finds hope that she and Suki's brains can heal from the trauma they've experienced. We see this progress at school where, instead of lashing out and punching someone or swearing, Della uses her voice to stop a boy who is sexually harassing the girls in her class. I recommend it for kids to read with grown-ups because most children will need to unpack and discuss the themes and issues in this heartfelt story.
- **Ruby on the Outside** by Nora Raleigh Baskin (ages 9 – 12)
  - Ruby doesn't want her new and only friend to learn that her mom is in jail. To make matters worse, Ruby thinks that her friend's family is the reason her mom IS in jail. I found this to be a thoughtful coming-of-age story about a girl who feels like she has two lives — one on the inside and one on the outside, and how she integrates the two. Kids will be able to put themselves into Ruby's shoes and experience what it's like to be her.
- <https://nrcf.cfd.camden.rutgers.edu/resources/books-films/>
  - A large list of relevant books from The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated. Examples include:
    - Anderson, Elijah, *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*, W. W. Norton & Company, August 1999, ISBN 03-930402-32
    - Anderson, Elijah, *Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community*, University of Chicago Press, 1990, ISBN 0226018164
    - Bernstein, N. (2005). *All alone in the world: Children of the incarcerated*. NY: The New Press. ISBN 1-56584-952-3
    - Bloom, Barbara and Steinhart, D. (1993). *Why Punish the Children?* San Francisco, CA. Council on Crime & Delinquency; ISBN: 9993022268
    - Braman, Donald, *Doing Time on the Outside: Incarceration and Family Life in Urban America*, U. of Michigan 2004
    - Butterfield, Fox, *All God's Children*, Avon Books, ISBN 0-380-72862-1
    - Casarjian, Robin, *House of Healing, A Prisoner's Guide to Inner Power and Freedom*, Transcontinental printing, 1995, ISBN 0-9644933-0-6

## Videos & Podcasts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqO7YoMscCU>

InBrief: What is Resilience?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZepSRDGTif4>

The Resilient Children of Incarcerated Parents: Isabel's Story

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6l6vL\\_OyNmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6l6vL_OyNmA)

Children of the Incarcerated

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/children-of-incarcerated-parents/listening-session/video>

In their Words: 4 Young People Share Experiences with Having an Incarcerated Parent

<https://youtu.be/lvZH9Ub7Ac0>

Alex Copes with a Family Member's Incarceration: A caring adult's love and support can help children cope with the absence of an incarcerated family member.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3yIH5I9s3s>

Healing from Parental Incarceration | Nicole Ausmer | TEDxCincinnatiWomen

<https://www.wegotusnow.org/podcast>

WE GOT US NOW podcast shines a spotlight on the invisible population of 10 million children and young adults in the US impacted by parental incarceration. WE endure the collateral consequences of mass incarceration in the US. Our Stories are often unknown and untold. Our Traumas are misdiagnosed and overlooked. Our Futures are often misrepresented and our experiences are unheard. WE will NO longer be silenced by our pain. These are OUR STORIES!

<https://rss.com/podcasts/morelifethereentrypodcast/704918/>

His research investigates the collateral consequences of parental incarceration and community reentry for children and families.

<https://www.aecf.org/blog/caseycast-podcast-tackles-a-silent-issue-parental-incarceration>

It's an intimate perspective that immediately exposes the many struggles of growing up with a parent in prison or jail.

<https://www.earhustlesq.com/episodes/2020/10/21/areyoulistening>

Hear the deeply profound personal stories of our youth on Pulitzer Prize nominated podcast, ear hustle

## Films:

\*Found at <https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/resources/books-films/>

- **Apart**, Jennifer Redfearn, 2020, follows the story of 3 women in an Ohio jail who have struggled with being incarcerated and motherhood. While fighting harsh sentences, fines, and emotional trauma these women try their best to create new lives for themselves and their family while trying to stay out of prison. This documentary shows how the children and families involved view these women for their past choices and just how hard it is to escape the stigma that follows. It's as if the time served was just the beginning of the real hurdles to come. The children in this documentary shared a multitude of different emotions in regards to their

mother's incarceration. Some felt resentment while others felt sadness, overall, the children's voices within this documentary are extremely important.

- **A Hard Straight**, Goro Toshima, 2004, Award-winning documentary film tells the story of what it's really like for a person to make the radical transition from prison life to society.
- **A Sentence of Their Own**. The film chronicles one family's annual pilgrimage to a New Hampshire State Prison and reveals the damaging impact incarceration has on families.  
<https://www.asentenceoftheirown.com/Home.html>
- **Beyond the Walls, The Road to Redemption**, Rachel Libert, 2006 -Film portraying the true stories of families affected by violence. TOVA, <https://www.worldcat.org/title/beyond-the-walls-the-road-to-redemption/oclc/301592077>
- **Champagne and the Talking Eggs**, Michael Sporn, Director, VHS, 1997. Cartoon format appropriate for children and adults.
- **Charisse Shumate: Fighting for Our Lives**, story of a woman who stood up against the CA Dept. of Corrections and fought against the substandard health care in women's prisons., The Freedom Archives, 2004
- **Children of Prisoners: Children of Promise**, U.S. Dept. of Justice, National Institute of Corrections, 2003, Peter Argentine, A candid conversation with fathers in jail and after release. The film presents the importance of family and the pain of separation.
- **Echoes of Incarceration** is a youth-produced documentary project focusing on the impact of the prison system on children. For more info and purchasing information, visit our "From Our Partners" page.
- **Family Ties** is a candid conversation with fathers in jail and after release. The film presents the importance of family and the pain of separation – told through the words of 7 men, their families, and the Warden of the Allegheny County (PA) Jail. Produced by award-winning filmmaker Peter Argentine and sponsored by Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation. For more info and purchasing information, visit our "From Our Partners" page.
- **Jacinta**, Jessica Earnshaw, 2020, focuses on the impact of addiction and incarceration on an entire family. The film crew goes to Maine and follows Jacinta during her initial incarceration with her mother and older brother while also bringing awareness to what the path of recovery can truly look like. An entire family plagued by the grips of incarceration provides first hand experiences on how it has impacted their economic situation, mental state, and even the way they view love. This documentary shows Jacinta's struggles within the criminal justice system as well as the hurdles she faces as a returning citizen recovering from addiction. Her story is the reality for many women and mothers within the jail system. Jacinta's ten-year-old daughter provides firsthand experiences of how his mother's incarceration has impacted her own self-esteem and their mother/daughter relationship. Available at <https://www.jacintafilm.com/>
- **Prison Lullabies**, Odile Isralson, and Lina Matta, 2003. A film about women who gave birth in prison.
- **Run For His Life** – At first glance, Repeter 'Pete' Monsanto lives a glamorous life – a celebrity photographer who works with boldface names like Meek Mill, Rick Ross, Ludacris, Nicki Minaj, Big Sean and others. But look deeper and you will see a man with father-sized hole in his life. When he was just six years old, Pete's father, Peter Monsanto, was arrested and convicted of racketeering and sentenced to life without parole. Trying to be a positive force in his son's life in spite of his criminal past and its consequences. Pete is now the same age his father was when he was sent away.



- **Shadows**, Rachel Libert, 2008 is a film by Tova: Artistic Project for Social Change. It is a powerful training film, bringing the voices and realities of children with incarcerated parents, their caregivers, and their incarcerated parents out of the shadows of anger and pain and into the light of healing and forgiveness. A must-see for anyone working with incarcerated fathers, their children and their caregivers. Available for purchase from NRCCFI [here](#).
- **The sentencing** – Cindy Shank, mother of three, is serving a 15-year sentence in federal prison for her tangential involvement with a Michigan drug ring years earlier. This intimate portrait of mandatory minimum drug sentencing’s devastating consequences, captured by Cindy’s brother, follows her and her family over the course of ten years. Courtesy of HBO Documentary Films.
- **Time**, Garrett Bradley, 2020, A documentary based on the actual events surrounding Sybil and Robert Richardson’s incarceration. As parents of six children, their case serves as a prime example of racism and unfair sentencing of people of color within our criminal legal system. The documentary follows Sybil’s fight to release her husband, while also shining a spotlight on how her children were impacted by these events. Between Sybil and Robert, a total of 31 years were served behind bars away from their family, despite the fact that it was a first offense for each of them. This documentary uses its platform to compare the treatment of those incarcerated to slavery which has impacted more than 2 million people who are incarcerated. Sybil and Roberts three boys describe what it was like growing up during this era in Louisiana and how their parents’ incarceration has impacted them in their adulthood. Available at <https://www.amazon.com/Time-Fox-Rich/dp/B08J7DDGJY>
- **Tre Maison Dasan** -Tre Maison Dasan is an inspiring film of three boys growing up with incarcerated parents. Directly told through the children’s perspective, the film is an exploration of the relationships and separations masculinity and coming of age in America when a parent is behind bars. Check out the teaser <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/documentaries/tre-maison-dasan/>
- **Troop 1500**, Ellen Spiro, 2006, Their mothers have been convicted of various crimes, but the Girl Scouts of Troop 1500 want to be doctors, social workers, and marine biologists. Troop 1500 is their story and that of their mothers-trying to hold together their families from behind the walls.
- **Up The Ridge**, Szuberla, N. and Kirby, A, a documentary following the building of a supermax prison in VA and the impact on the community, the people incarcerated there and their families, Appalshop, 2006
- **When the Bough Breaks**, Jill Evans-Petzall, a documentary about three Missouri families whose children are bounced between social workers, foster parents, grandparents and visits with their moms in prison.