



National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section
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October 28 2020

Director Dwayne Clark
Deputy Director Steve Durham
Louisville Metro Department of Corrections

Dear Director and Deputy Director,

Kentucky consistently leads the nation in the number of children who have a parent who has been incarcerated with about 1 in 9 kids having a parent who has been incarcerated. The members of National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section, through our Family Court Watch Program, have seen firsthand the impact on children when they are separated from a parent. Separation due to incarceration is especially traumatic, on the same magnitude as divorce or domestic violence.

Parental incarceration can harm children's health in both the short and long term and disproportionately impacts poor, Black and Brown children because of racial disparities in policing, pretrial practices, and cash bail. Family friendly visitation policies are vital to maintain bonds with the incarcerated parent. Additionally, visits and phone calls recognize the humanity of incarcerated people and their loved ones and are essential to maintaining emotional bonding that supports successful re-entry. Unfortunately, children in our community have had no visitation with their parents since March 13, 2020. Children need to have a connection with their parents either by phone or video.

On behalf of these children and their families we ask that you do the following:

1. Publish weekly reports on the number COVID-19 cases for people confined in the Main Jail Complex along with current summaries of protocols for treatment and prevention;
2. Publish milestones and projected timeline for resuming video visiting, which has been suspended since March 13th;
3. Provide every person confined in the Main Jail Complex with at least two free phone calls per week for access to families, loved ones, and service-providers as long as the visitors lobby is closed.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Beth Salamon'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Beth' being more prominent than the last name 'Salamon'.

Beth Salamon,
State Policy Advocate, NCJW, Louisville Section