

RIGHTS TO REALITIES: A MATRIX FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest

1a Protocol for police and other agencies to follow at the time of arrest

Current status: Who's doing what now
Models from elsewhere
Who's working on what improvements
Who should become involved/continue to be involved
Who should be the leader of the new/continuing work
What is the best role for our collaborative (Leader, contributor, convener, advisor, other kind of participant)
What needs to be done overall and by our collaborative in particular
How to evaluate success (indicators/methods)

1b Introduce New Haven model (partnership between police and Yale Child Study Center)

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1c Recruit and train advocates to support children during and/or after a parent's arrest

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2. I have the right to be heard when decisions are made about me

2a Create a voice for children in court proceedings that affect their lives.

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2b Listen

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3. I have the right to be considered when decisions are made about my parent.

3a Encourage development and expansion of community-based sentencing alternatives.

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3b. Explore including a “family impact statement” in presentencing investigation reports.

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3c. Continue to promote the bill of rights and educate public about impact on children of all aspects of criminal justice policy.

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3d. Support, promote and expand the work the Sheriff's Department is doing in the jails to 'consider' children.

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3e. Encourage our locality to adopt child support enforcement policy that takes into account reality of parental incarceration, and rewards to stay connected with and care for children.

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3f. Explore initiating an interagency planning effort, per Peter's report.

4. I have the right to be well cared for in my parent’s absence.

4a Support children by supporting their caretakers.

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4b Consider subsidized guardianship.

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4c. Consider creating specialized unit within child welfare, modeled on New York ACF’s unit.

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5. I have the right to speak with, see and touch my parent.

5a. Explore possibility of starting Children’s Center, following Osborne Association model, in SF jail/s and/or CDC facilities. Could this be large enough that contact visits could be the norm for children in SF?

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5b. Encourage social services departments to facilitate telephone and in-person contact.

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5c. Explore alternatives to costly collect calls.

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5d. Support transportation for visits.

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5e. Encourage the implementation of enhanced visitation programs

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6. I have the right to support as I struggle with my parent's incarceration.

6a. Train staff at youth-serving agencies to recognize and address the needs and concerns of children of incarcerated parents.

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6b. Provide access to specially-trained therapists, counselors and/or mentors.

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6e. Create a hip pocket guide with support resources and information about visiting, etc., and figure out a distribution mechanism.

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7. I have the right not to be blamed, judged or labeled because of my parent’s incarceration.

7a. Create opportunities for young people to communicate with and support each other.

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7b. Develop and pilot a training for various people/agencies who interact with children.

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8. I have the right to a lifelong relationship with my parent.

8a. Explore local options for implementing ASFA and/or training social workers and incarcerated parents about its implications.

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8b. Explore options for local opt-out of felony bans on housing, TANF, food stamps, etc.

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8c. Support and expand diversion and community-based alternatives.

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8e. Explore the creation of a Family Services Unit (modeled on the now-defunct Contra Costa program) within probation.

8f. Inventory status: of reentry programs/services in SF, and look for ways to augment them.

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8g. Consider campaign to dedicate 5 percent of custody costs to family reunification.

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