

Reentry

Communication Checklist

1. Expectations for housing. Where will the loved one live?
2. Expectations for the Big Day (day of release). Who will pick him up? Walk through the day. What will it look like? Who will be present?
3. Expectations for parenting roles. In some cases, custody issues.
4. Expectations for spousal roles in regards to responsibilities in the home (finances, transportation, etc.). Discuss how things have changed and how things are now done at home.
5. What are the plans for employment, education?
6. Expectations for accountability in the area of time, finances, whereabouts, etc.
7. Expectations for attending church, small group, or meeting with a mentor.
8. Expectations regarding friends. Whom should they associate with and who should be avoided.
9. What is the plan for substance abuse treatment?
10. In which ways do each of you think the other has changed? Discuss.
11. How have the children changed?
12. Talk about the crime. What needs to be done to heal the harm that was caused?

Agreement

(Sample)

GOALS

Goals should be primarily established by the one who is returning home and not the waiting family. This is because the loved one must “own” the goals or he will not be internally motivated to accomplish them. However, the family has the right to suggest goals and establish deal breakers. A “deal breaker” is any behavior that seriously violates the covenant and results in ending the relationship as agreed upon.

Sample goals:

1. Obey the requirements set forth by the parole board.
2. Attend counseling until released by the counselor.
3. Attend AA/NA program each week (or whichever treatment is appropriate to the addiction).
4. Secure employment within 6 months.
5. Once hired, be consistent and reliable. Show up for work on time.
6. Pay your bills on time.
7. Complete your GED by 6 months.
8. Transition out of the home in one year (if it is an adult child). Set a target date.
9. Gain custody (or full responsibility) of your children within 6 months to a year, if legally possible.
10. Attend church weekly.
11. Provide accountability for where you are at all times.
12. Attend anger management course (parenting, financial, life skills etc.).
13. Meet regularly with a mentor for 1 year.
14. Volunteer with a charitable, community or faith-based organization. (If probation/parole allows)
15. Establish healthy relationships with spouse, children and parents.
16. If in debt, make a plan to be out of debt by a certain date.

SUPPORT PROVIDED by those parties who sign the agreement

- Transportation to work, meetings, classes, and counseling sessions
- Childcare
- Encouragement
- Accountability

EVALUATION: We will meet every week to evaluate the progress toward the goals and make revisions as needed. If a 3rd party is included in the covenant, a time should be set up to meet with him or her.

EXIT: Deal Breakers:

- Any use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco
- Any association with people mutually identified as negative influences
- Any violation of parole requirements
- Any return to abusive behavior

Consequences of noncompliance:

- Must find an alternative living arrangement
- Departure of home within three days
- Departure without any transportation vehicle in our name
- Assume all personal expenses

Signature of family

Signature of returning loved one

Signature of 3rd party (mentor, pastor, or family member)