

Making Positive Impacts

Local Family Councils across the state are creating ways to make positive impacts on how we experience the challenges of incarceration and reentry. Local and statewide family councils began in 2002 and have been effective avenues to provide positive changes and reduce barriers.

Family Council Accomplishments

- Improvements to visitation policy and practices
- Adding healthy vending machine options at visiting
- Increased understanding of policies that impact all visitors and incarcerated loved ones
- Implementing local and statewide changes to operations through collaboration with facility staff.



Come join us and make a difference!

Family Council Meetings

Meetings are jointly led by family members and facility superintendents.

Participation in the Family Council is a great opportunity to:

- Ask questions,
- Gather information,
- Share your perspective, and
- Contribute to positive change and public safety.

Family Councils are active at every prison in Washington.

Check the facility website for meeting dates and times.

www.doc.wa.gov/facilities/prison

Family Council

FAMILIES PARTNERING WITH
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR
POSITIVE CHANGES & PRO-SOCIAL
SUPPORT



FAMILY SERVICE UNIT

WWW.DOC.WA.GOV/FAMILY

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Mission

The mission of the Family Council is to collaborate, problem-solve, and partner with the Department of Corrections and the community to:

- Enhance communications,
- Improve quality of life for incarcerated individuals, and
- Create opportunities to strengthen family and community connections.

Families and friends are important to those incarcerated. They help:

- Create positive change within the Department of Corrections,
- Assist with successful transition from incarceration to the community following release,
- Prevent recidivism, or re-offense resulting in a return to confinement.

How we define family

Family is broadly defined to include immediate, extended, and elected family members such as romantic partners, friends, neighbors and clergy.

Goals

- Create opportunities to **strengthen family**, community, and pro-social connections.
- **Improve communication** between families and their loved ones and the Washington Department of Corrections.
- **Improve the quality of life** for those incarcerated.
- **Promote successful reentry and public safety** and work together toward that goal.
- **Provide input** on statewide and local policies and influence decisions regarding visitation, vending, living conditions, overall health, recreation, events, etc.
- **Address local and statewide issues** and concerns that affect a broad range of those incarcerated and their families.
- **Hear from decision makers** and leaders and provide input on reentry, classification, special programs, and other options for your family.
- Support and help other families navigate barriers and **create positive changes**.

Getting Involved

How to participate

Any approved visitor can attend a Family Council meeting.

Contact the Family Services Unit for more information:

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