

# WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN VISITING MY LOVED ONE?

- Depending on which facility you visit, **there may or may not be contact visits.** Prepare yourself for the emotions that may arise if you're unable to touch your loved one.
- **Be on time** - arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled visit.
- Follow the **dress code.**

**Rules are different for the Main Jail, Blaine Street and Rountree Facilities.** Follow the link to be sure you know what is expected of you at the facility you are visiting:  
<http://www.scsheriff.com/Home/InmateVisitingInformation.aspx>

## SCHEDULING YOUR VISIT

To schedule a visit at the Main Jail, or to find out which facility you will be visiting, call:

(831) 454-7800

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

To schedule a visit at the Rountree facility, call:

(831) 454-7873

Tuesdays or Thursdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To schedule a visit at the Blaine Street Women's facility, call:

(831) 454-2177

## References

- Clark, V., and Duwe, G. (May, 2013). *Blessed Be the Social Tie That Binds: The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism.* Criminal Justice Policy Review. SAGE Publications.
- Reckman, L., and Rothstein, D. (January 9, 2012). *A Voice for the Young Child with an Incarcerated Parent.* Children's Rights Litigation. American Bar Association
- *Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.* County of Santa Cruz.  
Retrieved from: <http://www.scsheriff.com/Home/InmateVisitingInformation/SantaCruzMainJail.aspx>

# THE VALUE OF VISITS

A Guide to Visiting Incarcerated Loved Ones in Santa Cruz County Jail



# WHY VISIT?

## LOWER RATES OF RECIDIVISM

For decades, research has shown that people who receive visits during their incarceration are more successful post-release and experience lower rates of recidivism. One study found that any visit reduces the likelihood of committing a felony by 13% and violating parole by 25% (Clark and Duwe, 2013).



## MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS

Maintaining a relationship with a loved one who is incarcerated is highly beneficial and plays an essential role for success during release back into society, also known as reentry.

# HOW DOES MY VISIT AFFECT REENTRY?

## EMPLOYMENT

Recommendations from family have potential to help gain employment. Research has shown that among people who were formerly incarcerated, those with strong familial ties were more likely to gain and maintain employment compared with those who did not have strong familial ties.

## INCREASE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Transitional housing is a struggle for most people upon release. Those who maintain or mend relationships with family and friends will be more likely to find housing upon reentry and less likely to violate probation/parole.

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM

Letters of support from family and friends are an essential part of getting a record cleared through Santa Cruz County's Clean Slate Program.

# SHOULD I BRING MY CHILDREN TO THE JAIL VISIT?

YES! Children who visit loved ones who are currently incarcerated (especially parents) benefit by:

- Maintaining existing relationships with their parents/loved ones.
- Knowing that their parent/loved one is safe.
- Preserving important connections.
- Improving recidivism rates, ultimately reducing additional child trauma.
- Expressing their emotional reactions to the separation from their parent.
- Developing a more realistic understanding of their parents' (or loved ones') circumstances.

