



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Office of the Director

Washington, DC 20534

June 19, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL BUREAU INMATES

  
FROM: Charles E. Samuels, Jr., Director  
Federal Bureau of Prisons

SUBJECT: Parenting

As Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), I want to reaffirm the agency's commitment to helping you prepare to reenter society following release from prison. For those of you with children, this preparation includes building parenting skills.

Regardless of the state of your relationship with your children before you came to prison, we understand that incarceration creates new parenting challenges. The staff in the BOP are committed to giving you opportunities to enhance your relationship with your children and your role as a parent. For example, we offer parenting programs at all institutions. I encourage you to take advantage of these programs. The BOP also offers many opportunities to communicate with your children and your family, through telephone calls, electronic messages, and letters. In addition, I hope your family is able to bring your children to visit you—there is no substitute for seeing your children, looking them in the eye, and letting them know you care about them.

I suggest that you not let mistakes you may have made in the past prevent you from being an important role model for your children. You can show them that people who make mistakes and bad decisions can overcome challenging obstacles with the right attitude and commitment. You can also demonstrate that through hard work, people can achieve great things such as education, jobs, and treatment. You

can reinforce your children's strengths and help guide them when they are veering off course.

I hope that you use your term of incarceration to acquire the skills needed to live successfully in the community, and this includes building a strong relationship with your children. We are here to help you prepare to successfully release from prison and become a productive and law abiding citizen. Take advantage of the many programs that are available; get help in overcoming problems you have faced; and improve skills you have acquired previously. I challenge each of you to use each day to make a positive difference, and to bring that positive difference to the lives of your children.