



Information for Family and Friends of Residents



Pre-Release and Reentry Services (PRRS)
11651 Nebel Street
Rockville, Maryland 20852
(240) 773-4200

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Introduction

Every offender is a part of a family. We here at PRRS understand that incarceration is a difficult time not only for the offenders, but also for their families and friends. Separation from a loved one can be emotionally, spiritually, and economically overwhelming at times. Having a loved one incarcerated can cause relationship challenges, strain on family financial resources, and shifting roles and responsibilities.

This guide has been developed for you as a guide in understanding the process and the programs that will be used to govern your loved one's stay here at PRRS. It will also provide you with information on what kind of services and programs that is available in the community that your family may obtain to assist you during this time. Sponsor Group classes will be provided to you that are aimed at preparing you for the day your loved one returns home. Although this guide may not answer all of your questions, it will provide you information about PRRS to hopefully assist you during this difficult time.

Families and the support they provide play a very important role in helping the offender- our residents- be successful once released. Families provide housing, financial support, transportation, help finding employment, and are the go to for child care. We encourage you to maintain regular contact with your loved one who is in PRRS so you may be able to provide emotional support and stay informed on his or her progress.

PRRS understands there is a significant impact on families that have a loved one incarcerated and sometimes these families receive little support or understanding from the community. The sponsorship program offer these families' structure, information of community resources, and serves as a support group for those participating in the program. By developing a positive partnership, your loved one will have a better chance of being able to successfully reenter the community.

Mission of Montgomery County Department of Corrections:

To protect the public and citizens of Montgomery County by providing a wide range of constructive, professional correctional services for pretrial and convicted detainees.

To ensure the safety and welfare of staff, visitors, and residents by operating facilities and programs in a secure, humane environment which meets professional and standards and constitutional requirements.

To reduce the rate to reincarceration by providing residents with the opportunity for self improvement and the inner resources necessary to make a successful adjustment within the community.

To meet the future correction and rehabilitation needs of the County by means of effective planning and responsible fiscal and resource management.

Mission of Pre-Release Reentry Services:

The mission of the Pre-Release Reentry Services of Montgomery County is to promote public safety and to provide residents with the opportunities to develop progressive responsible behavior.

What does PRRS offer the resident?

Pre-Release and Reentry Services offers highly structured programs designed to assist residents in examining the issues that contribute to their criminal behavior. The programs and services offered are substance abuse treatment and counseling, parenting, life skills, employment assistance, housing assistance, cognitive restructuring, problem solving skills, and meditation services. All services and programs are geared toward releasing residents better prepared to reenter the community and better equipped to meet life's responsibilities.

Each resident is assigned a case manager, who will work with the resident to identify issues that need to be addressed and together they will develop an individual reentry plan.

How does one get selected to participate in PRRS program?

Within the first ten days of the inmate arriving at the jail to begin their sentence, a member of PRRS screening team will assess their eligibility to participate in PRRS program. Once it is determined an inmate is suitable, the screening team will conduct a personal interview to ensure there are no concerns that would preclude the inmate from participating, i.e. outstanding charges, medical issues. Once the screening team accepts the inmate, they will determine his or her starting date into the program.

What will my loved one be doing the first week at PRRS?

During the first week your loved one will participate in PRRS orientation. Orientation provides the new resident the opportunity to learn the rules, regulations and policies that govern PRRS. Residents are informed of the programs and services offered by PRRS and the expectations of PRRS. Residents are afforded the opportunity to ask questions and address any concerns they may have.

New residents receive a briefing by each department, to include work release coordinator, medical staff and accounting departments. The first Tuesday after arrival the new resident will meet with their unit team. This provides the new resident and unit staff the opportunity to get to know each other and to discuss the goals he or she wishes to work toward while participating in PRRS.

Who will be managing my loved one reentry plan?

Each resident is assigned a Case Manager and a Work Release Coordinator upon their arrival. The relationship between the resident and the case manager is an important one. It requires both parties to be actively involved in identifying issues that need to be addressed and the programs that will best address those issues. The case manager and the resident will meet within the first five days to formulate an individualized reentry plan for the resident. The case manager is responsible for overseeing the resident's reentry progress, level movement, approval of visitors and sponsors.

The case manager of your loved one is the person you should contact if you believe you have information that would be helpful to the case manager or if you have any problems or concerns.

The Work Release Coordinator's primary function is to assist residents with securing meaningful full time employment. Work Release Coordinators provide vocational guidance, counseling, and by facilitating job readiness/retention seminar. Work Release Coordinators recruit resources and educate the employment community about the need to provide opportunities to residents nearing release.

Can I drop off clothing or hygiene items for my loved one?

Yes, items can be dropped off during normal working hours. Remember items can not contain any alcohol.

Does PRRS have a web site?

Yes, that information can be found at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cor

This page will provide you information on PRRS, including the resident guide book.

How many groups must I attend?

All sponsors are required to attend a minimum of **six (6)** sponsor meetings. After the sponsor completes the six meeting requirement, the sponsor must meet with the case manager within two weeks to complete the sponsorship program.

When does sponsor group meet?

Sponsor groups meet twice a week, **Mondays and Wednesdays** in the outside classroom from 7:30 PM to 8:45 PM (excluding holidays and County closures due to weather, emergencies). Sponsors can chose the topics they wish to attend that best fits their situation from the yearly sponsor group calendar that's provided in this guide.

Sponsor should arrive for sponsor group at 7:15 PM to begin the sign in process at the Front Desk. Sponsors arriving after 7:40 PM will not be able to attend sponsor group.

Is there anything I need to bring to the sponsor group?

No. All required material will be provided to you.

May I bring children to the sponsor group?

No, children are not allowed during sponsor meeting. However, the resident whom you are sponsoring can provide childcare services while you are participating in the meeting.

What are the topics covered in Sponsor Group?

The following topics are covered on a rotating basis.

1. **Cognitive Restructuring:** This topic teaches the process of how the subconscious mind controls human behavior. The goal is to help people understand what controls human behavior and how to overcome behavior that is undesirable.
2. **Change:** Change has always been a necessary aspect of life. People react, respond and adjust to change in a sequence of six predictable stages. This group session will focus on those six stages and the behaviors associated with each stage of change.
3. **Working a Program:** This group session will go over what “Working a Program” is and provide guidance on understanding and following your loved one’s *Reentry Plan*.
4. **Recovery is a Family Affair:** This group session explores different roles family members assume when a member of the family is addicted to drugs or alcohol. We will examine these new roles and the effects they have on the addict’s recovery.
5. **Enabling:** Enabling is doing for others what they are capable of doing for themselves. There are both positive and negative connotations to enabling: Negatively, enabling can be through dysfunctional behavior approaches with intentions to help resolve a specific problem, but actually perpetuates or exacerbates the problem. Positively, enabling can be through a pattern of interaction which allows individuals to develop and grow through their own empowerment.
6. **Anger:** In this group session we will explore this completely normal, usually healthy, human emotion. But anger can lead to problems at work, personal relationship, and in our overall quality of life.
7. **Questions and Answers:** This is a time to ask questions regarding the Center, including expectations, rules, opportunities and privileges. An overview of the program from screening to movement of Levels, case management and work release coordinator roles through release is provided as a foundation. Individual case information is not shared in this group setting.
8. **Community Supervision (Probation/Parole) Overview:** In this monthly group session, a representative from probation and parole will provide an overview of expectations and services available to their clients.

We welcome family and friends’ suggestions for Sponsor Group topics!

Sponsor Group Calendar

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
Monday, January 04, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, January 06, 2016	Change
Monday, January 11, 2016	Mommie's and Daddies in Jail	Wednesday, January 13, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, January 18, 2016	No Group~Holiday	Wednesday, January 20, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair
Monday, January 25, 2016	Enabling	Wednesday, January 27, 2016	Anger
Monday, February 01, 2016	Questions & Answers	Wednesday, February 03, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring
Monday, February 08, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, February 10, 2016	Change
Monday, February 15, 2016	No Group~Holiday	Wednesday, February 17, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, February 22, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair	Wednesday, February 24, 2016	Enabling
Monday, February 29, 2016	Anger	Wednesday, March 02, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, March 07, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, March 09, 2016	Change
Monday, March 14, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, March 16, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, March 21, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair	Wednesday, March 23, 2016	Enabling
Monday, March 28, 2016	Anger	Wednesday, March 30, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, April 04, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, April 06, 2016	Change
Monday, April 11, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, April 13, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, April 18, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair	Wednesday, April 20, 2016	Enabling
Monday, April 25, 2016	Anger	Wednesday, April 27, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, May 02, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, May 04, 2016	Change
Monday, May 09, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, May 11, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, May 16, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair	Wednesday, May 18, 2016	Enabling
Monday, May 23, 2016	Anger	Wednesday, May 25, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, May 30, 2016	No Group~Holiday	Wednesday, June 01, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring
Monday, June 06, 2016	Change	Wednesday, June 08, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, June 13, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, June 15, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair
Monday, June 20, 2016	Enabling	Wednesday, June 22, 2016	Anger
Monday, June 27, 2016	Questions & Answers	Wednesday, June 29, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring
Monday, July 04, 2016	No Group~Holiday	Wednesday, July 06, 2016	Change
Monday, July 11, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, July 13, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, July 18, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair	Wednesday, July 20, 2016	Enabling
Monday, July 25, 2016	Anger	Wednesday, July 27, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, August 01, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, August 03, 2016	Change
Monday, August 08, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, August 10, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, August 15, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair	Wednesday, August 17, 2016	Enabling
Monday, August 22, 2016	Anger	Wednesday, August 24, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, August 29, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, August 31, 2016	Change
Monday, September 05, 2016	No Group~Holiday	Wednesday, September 07, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, September 12, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, September 14, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair
Monday, September 19, 2016	Enabling	Wednesday, September 21, 2016	Anger
Monday, September 26, 2016	Questions & Answers	Wednesday, September 28, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring
Monday, October 03, 2016	Change	Wednesday, October 05, 2016	Working a Program
Monday, October 10, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair	Wednesday, October 12, 2016	Enabling
Monday, October 17, 2016	Anger	Wednesday, October 19, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, October 24, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, October 26, 2016	Change
Monday, October 31, 2016	Working a Program	Wednesday, November 02, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair
Monday, November 07, 2016	Enabling	Wednesday, November 09, 2016	Anger
Monday, November 14, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, November 16, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, November 21, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, November 23, 2016	Change
Monday, November 28, 2016	Working a Program	Wednesday, November 30, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair
Monday, December 05, 2016	Enabling	Wednesday, December 07, 2016	Anger
Monday, December 12, 2016	Probation and Parole	Wednesday, December 14, 2016	Questions & Answers
Monday, December 19, 2016	Cognitive Restructuring	Wednesday, December 21, 2016	Change
Monday, December 26, 2016	Working a Program	Wednesday, December 28, 2016	Recovery is a Family Affair