



Information for Family and Friends of Residents



**Pre-Release and Reentry Services (PRRS)
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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 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 re-enter 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 offenders 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 offenders 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 Re-Entry Services:

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

What does PRRS offer the offender?

Pre-Release and Re-Entry 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 re-enter 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 re-entry plan.

How does one get selected to participate in PRRS program?

Within the first ten days of an offender arriving at the jail to begin their sentence, a member of PRRS screening team will assess the offender's eligibility to participate in PRRS program. Once it is determined an offender is suitable, the screening team will interview the offender to ensure there are no outstanding issues that would preclude the offender from participating, i.e. outstanding charges, Medical issues. Once the screening team accepts the offender, 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 re-entry 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 re-entry 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 offenders 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:

<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/doctmpl.asp?url=/content/docr/PRRS/PRRSmain.asp>

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 Re-Entry 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

Jan. 05, 2015- Change
Jan 07, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
Jan. 12, 2015- Probation
Jan. 14, 2015- Enabling
Jan. 19, 2015-No Class (Holiday)
Jan. 21, 2015- Working a Program
Jan. 26, 2015- Questions and Answers
Jan. 28, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Feb. 02, 2015- Anger
Feb. 04, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
Feb. 09, 2015- Probation
Feb. 11, 2015- Enabling
Feb. 16, 2015- No Class (Holiday)
Feb. 18, 2015- Working a Program
Feb. 23, 2015- Questions and Answers
Feb. 25, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Mar. 02, 2015- Change
Mar. 04, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
Mar. 09, 2015- Probation
Mar. 11, 2015- Enabling
Mar. 16, 2015- Anger
Mar. 18, 2015- Working a Program
Mar. 23, 2015- Questions and Answers
Mar. 25, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Mar. 30, 2015- Change
Apr. 01, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
Apr. 06, 2015- Enabling
Apr. 08, 2015- Anger
Apr. 13, 2015- Probation
Apr. 15, 2015- Working a Program
Apr. 20, 2015- Questions and Answers
Apr. 22, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Apr. 27, 2015- Change
Apr. 29, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
May 04, 2015- Enabling
May 06, 2015- Anger
May 11, 2015- Probation
May 13, 2015- Working a Program
May 18, 2015- Questions and Answers
May 20, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
May 25, 2015- No Class (Holiday)
May 27, 2015- Change
June 1, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
June 3, 2015- Enabling
June 08, 2015- Probation
June 10, 2015- Anger
June 15, 2015- Working a Program
June 17, 2015- Questions and Answers
June 22, 2015- Change
June 24, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
June 29, 2015- Enabling
July 01, 2015- Anger
July 06, 2015- Questions and Answers
July 08, 2015-Recovery is a Family Affair
July 13, 2015-Probation
July 15, 2015- Change
July 20, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
July 22, 2015- Enabling
July 27, 2015- Anger
July 29, 2015- Working a Program
Aug. 03, 2015- Questions and Answers
Aug. 05, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Aug. 10, 2015- Probation
Aug. 12, 2015- Change
Aug. 17, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
Aug. 19, 2015- Enabling
Aug. 24, 2015- Anger
Aug. 26, 2015- Working a Program
Aug. 31, 2015- Questions and Answers
Sept. 02, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Sept. 07, 2015- No Class (Holiday)
Sept. 09, 2015- Change
Sept. 14, 2015- Probation
Sept. 16, 2015- Enabling
Sept. 21, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
Sept. 23, 2015- Anger
Sept. 28, 2015- Working a Program
Sept. 30, 2015- Questions and Answers
Oct. 05, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Oct. 07, 2015- Change
Oct. 12, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
Oct. 14, 2015- Enabling
Oct. 19, 2015- Anger
Oct. 21, 2015- Working a Program
Oct. 26, 2015- Questions and Answers
Oct. 28, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Nov. 02, 2015- Mommies & Daddies Incarcerated
Nov. 04, 2015- Change
Nov. 09, 2015- Probation
Nov. 11, 2015- No Class (Holiday)
Nov. 16, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring
Nov. 18, 2015- Enabling
Nov. 23, 2015- Anger
Nov. 25, 2015- Working a Program
Nov. 30, 2015- Questions and Answers
Dec. 02, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Dec. 07, 2015- Change
Dec. 09, 2015-Enabling
Dec. 14, 2015- Probation
Dec. 16, 2015- Questions and Answers
Dec. 21, 2015- Anger
Dec. 23, 2015- Working a Program
Dec. 28, 2015- Recovery is a Family Affair
Dec. 30, 2015- Cognitive Restructuring