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1963 - 2023

A GEM 60 YEARS
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60TH ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

MONDAY, MAY 22 - FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023



-
- Gary Gamble
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 - Columbia, SC
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Pathways to Financial and Parental Responsibility for Incarcerated Parents



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Why do we do this work?

- According to Child Trends, 64% of Black children are born to unmarried-never-married parents
- Children from father-absent homes are 5 times more likely to commit suicide, 32 times more likely to run away, 20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders, 9 times more likely to drop out of school, 10 times more likely to engage in substance abuse, and 20 times more likely to end up in prison



- How did I get here today? What's my story?
- It all happened in 1994...



What can I do to help the incarcerated parent?

- Get yourself trained to help (mediation, parenting classes, fatherhood curriculum, etc.)
 - Support the use of accurate background check systems.
 - Help find internships and on-the-job training.
 - Attend or host job fairs for fair chance employment.
 - Provide ex-offenders with business-appropriate clothing, bus passes and other tools for career success.
 - Support reentry facilities and programs.
 - Right size orders/modifications.
 - Offer in compromise of state debt.



What can be done to help the children?

- Be an anchor of support: Resilient children commonly have at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult.
- Keep open communication: Children of incarcerated parents will almost certainly ask hard questions and experience difficult emotions.
- Prioritize stability: Children need stability in their lives to feel safe and secure.
- Encourage active skill building: Encourage children to develop new skills and interests.
- Involve other supportive adults: Encourage children to develop relationships with other supportive adults in their lives.
- Consider helping the child connect with their incarcerated parent: This can include writing letters, making phone calls, or visiting the parent in prison.



What can be done for both the child and the incarcerated parent?

- Double-down on calls and letters. Encourage as much contact as possible.
- Keep writing even if you don't hear back.
- Participate in parenting programs that are available in prison.
- Seek support from other parents who are incarcerated.
- Get accurate information about visiting procedures.
- Proximity of prison facilities — incarcerated men are, on average, 100 miles away from their children; incarcerated women are, on average, 160 miles away from their children.
- Help find transportation to the prison if necessary.
- Work to make visiting procedures less uncomfortable.
- **Be that anchor of support for both the child and the parent.**



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Introduction

Kenneth Braswell

CEO, Fathers Incorporated

Kenneth Braswell has spent over 30 years in the service of family and community. Husband and father of 5, in 2004, he created Fathers Incorporated (FI) and has served as Chief Executive Officer since its inception. With national and international missions; the agency has provided capacity building services to thousands of organizations working to ensure that fathers contribute to the healthy well-being of their children. FI is currently the prime contract for National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (Fatherhood.gov). Braswell is the author of "When The Tear Won't Fall: One Man's Journey Through The Intimate Struggles of Manhood and Fatherhood." He is also the author of four children's books Daddy, There's A Noise Outside, Daddy Is Feeling Blue, Daddy's Family Tree and Daddy, Can I Cry. In addition to writing books, Mr. Braswell is also the creator of three powerful documentaries: "Spit'in Anger", "Dark Hearts" and "A Queen's Discovery. He is a much sought-after keynote speaker, presenter, trainer and media consultant in issues related of Faith, Family & Fatherhood; with an intentional focus on Black Men and Boys.





"Our mission is to engage, equip and empower a community network of fathers and families by creating an environment of support, parental education, positive societal narratives and a father-focused blueprint to elevate the awareness of responsible fatherhood."





What is the FI vision of Responsible Fatherhood?

1. All children should have the love, care emotional, and financial support of both parents, regardless of whether the parents live together or not.
2. Fathers should take personal responsibility for their children and have the necessary resources to fulfill their parenting roles.
3. Policies and programs should affirm and promote responsible fatherhood.





**THE WAY YOU THINK & FEEL
ABOUT DADS IS ROOTED IN
THE FOUNDATION OF WHAT
YOU KNOW ABOUT DADS**

New Report: Punishment Beyond Prisons 2023

The U.S. has a staggering 1.9 million people behind bars, but even this number doesn't capture the true reach of the criminal legal system. It's more accurate to look at the 5.5 million people under all of the nation's mass punishment systems, which include not only incarceration but also **probation and parole**.

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/correctionalcontrol2023.html>



Incarcerated parents face significant challenges in maintaining their financial and parental responsibilities due to barriers such as loss of job, limited visitation rights, and the high cost of maintaining contact with their children.

Addressing the challenges faced by incarcerated parents in maintaining financial and parental responsibilities is important not only for the well-being of the incarcerated parents themselves but also for their families and communities, as it can lead to better outcomes for all involved.

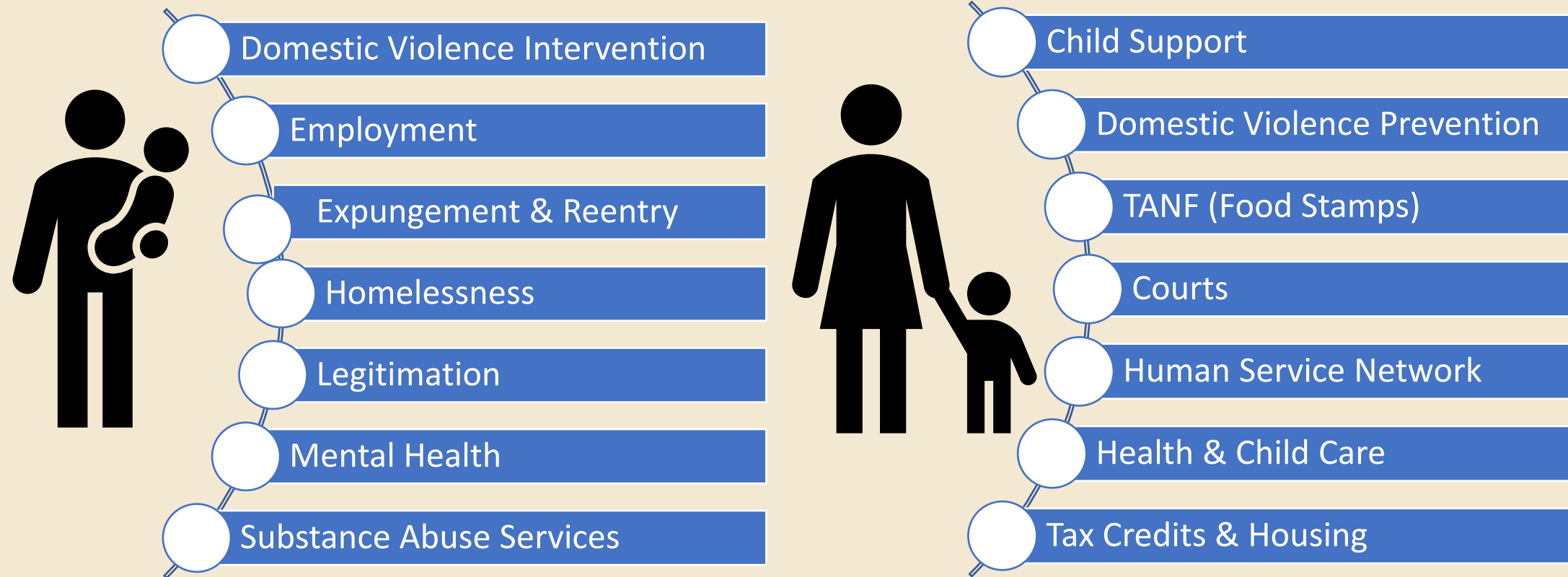


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Intentional Historic Design of Parental Supports



Concept designed by Kenneth Braswell | 10/8/21



Understand the Impact on Children

Maintaining contact with their children is crucial for incarcerated individuals as it allows them to remain connected to their families and maintain a sense of identity as a parent. It can also provide emotional support for both the incarcerated parent and their child, reducing the negative impacts of incarceration on family relationships. Additionally, maintaining contact can promote positive outcomes for children, such as improved academic performance and reduced risk of behavioral and emotional problems.



Important Areas to Understand for Returning Citizens

- ☐ Need for Financial Education
- ☐ Job Training and Technology Awareness
- ☐ Co-Parenting
- ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Resources for Maintaining Contact with Children and Family
- ☐ Responsibility
- ☐ Collaborations and Partnerships
- ☐ Worth and Hope





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Any questions?

