

1 Section 1. Female inmates who are parents of minor
2 children; legislative findings and intent; institutional
3 assignments; data collection.--

4 (1) The Legislature finds that it is important that
5 each female inmate in the state correctional system maintain
6 contact with her minor children through visitation in order to
7 prepare the inmate to be reunited with her family upon
8 release. Although the Department of Corrections may limit the
9 activities of an inmate, the inmate may fulfill parental
10 responsibilities through visits and telephone and mail
11 communication with her family. The Legislature also finds that
12 the support provided by an inmate's family can be an important
13 resource in combating crime and reducing recidivism.

14 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that each
15 female inmate be assigned, whenever possible, to a
16 correctional facility that is located in close proximity to
17 the residence of the inmate's children.

18 (3)(a) The Department of Corrections shall collect
19 information concerning the minor children of female inmates
20 committed to the state correctional system. At a minimum, the
21 information must include:

- 22 1. The number of minor children of each inmate.
- 23 2. The date of birth of each minor child.
- 24 3. The residential address for each minor child.
- 25 4. The custodial status of each minor child.

26 (b) The department shall annually analyze the
27 institutional assignments of female inmates to determine
28 whether each female inmate who is the parent of a minor child
29 is being housed in an institution that is located in close
30 proximity to the residence of the minor child. The analysis
31 must include mapping and distance calculations.

1 (4) The department need not reassign a female inmate
2 to an institution located in close proximity to the residence
3 of the inmate's minor child if the court has restricted the
4 inmate's contact with her minor child.

5 Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 944.17, Florida
6 Statutes, is amended to read:

7 944.17 Commitments and classification; transfers.--

8 (7) Pursuant to such regulations as it may provide,
9 the department may transfer prisoners from one institution to
10 another institution in the correctional system and classify
11 and reclassify prisoners as circumstances may require. In
12 transferring a female prisoner from one institution to
13 another, the department shall consider, in addition to
14 security and medical considerations, whether the prisoner
15 would benefit from being housed in close proximity to her
16 minor child.

17 Section 3. Subsection (7) is added to section 944.24,
18 Florida Statutes, to read:

19 944.24 Administration of correctional institutions for
20 women.--

21 (7) Each female inmate who has a minor child shall,
22 whenever possible, be assigned to a correctional facility that
23 is in close proximity to the child. This subsection does not
24 apply if the court has restricted the inmate's contact with
25 her child.

26 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 944.8031, Florida
27 Statutes, is amended to read:

28 944.8031 Inmate's family visitation; legislative
29 intent; minimum services provided to visitors; budget
30 requests.--

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