



The Department of Corrections (DOC) encourages parent-child contact when feasible and appropriate.

The Facility Corrections Service Specialist (CSS) shall consider the following when determining if an inmate is an active parent for the purpose of determining potential out of state placement. If the Facility CSS finds any of the following, then the inmate shall be listed as an active parent:

- (1) Is the inmate's child(ren) listed on his/her telephone pin sheet?
- (2) Does the inmate regularly call his/her child(ren)?¹
- (3) Is the inmate's child(ren) on his/her approved visitor list?
- (4) Has the inmate's child(ren) come to visit him/her at any point during his/her incarceration?
- (5) Does the inmate have the right and responsibility to determine and control matters affecting a child's welfare and upbringing, other than routine daily care and control of the child? Examples include decisions regarding education, non-emergency medical and dental care, religion, and travel. This represents the right to make major life decisions for the child.²
- (6) Has the inmate's parental rights been terminated by a court? If yes, the inmate no longer has a right to contact with the child.
- (7) Is the inmate in compliance with any child protection or family service plan? The inmate must be in compliance with any child protection or family service plan to be considered an active parent.
- (8) Has the inmate made diligent efforts to maintain contact with his/her minor child(ren)? This can be shown by arranging for visitation, communication with the child(ren) or their caretaker, keeping apprised of the child(ren)'s progress; and/or planning for the child(ren)'s future.
- (9) Does the inmate maintain a meaningful role in the child's life? This can include any or all of the following: the parent's acts or expressions manifesting concern for the child, such as letters, phone calls, visits and other forms of communication; efforts by the parent to communicate and work with the authorized agency, legal guardian, foster parent, the court, or others providing services to the parent or child, including correctional, mental health, and substance abuse program personnel for the purpose of complying with the service plan and repairing, maintaining, or building the parent-child relationship; or a positive response by the parent to the agency's efforts.

¹ Regular contact requires contact within the last 6 months.

² See 15 V.S.A. § 664(1)(A).