

Visiting dad

- Of course you might want to hug your dad!
- Unfortunately the seating arrangements might make hugging difficult.
- Sometimes there are family days when you can visit in a more relaxed environment and do other things like read books and play on games consoles with your family.
- Your dad will write to you if there is a family day coming up!



Keeping in touch

- Staying in touch with you is really important but sometimes this can be hard.
- It is not easy for people to phone their family whilst they are in prison.
- Your dad can't just pick up the phone, text or go on Facebook like he might usually do.
- This might mean that you don't hear from him as often as you would like.
- He will get in touch as soon as he can.

Contact with dad



Advice and guidance for children with a father in prison

This guide was produced by men in custody, children who have experienced parental incarceration, Lancashire and South Cumbria Prisons and the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network.

Why am I not allowed contact?

- Sometimes it might have been decided that it wouldn't be a good idea for your dad to keep in touch with you.
- This would be for your own safety.
- Sometimes this might only apply to visits.
- In some cases this might apply to letters and phone calls as well.
- This type of decision is made by an adult who is looking after your safety.



What do prisons look like?

- Prisons are big buildings surrounded by a high wall or fence and there are CCTV cameras.

Booking visits

- Everyone in prison is allowed a certain number of visits with their family and friends each month.
- Each visit has to be booked by a responsible adult.
- Unfortunately people aged under 16 can't visit by themselves.

Before your visit

- There might be a bit of a wait before you are allowed in - it allows staff to get everything ready for your visit.
- There are no mobile phones allowed in prisons.
- You will have a locker to safely store your belongings.
- After you have put your belongings in your locker a member of staff will collect you and the other visitors from the waiting area and take you to the visiting hall.



Searches

- On your way to the visits hall, you will be searched by a member of staff.
- Being searched in prison is similar to being searched at an airport when you go on holiday.
- Everyone gets searched each time they go and visit someone in prison - this is normal.
- The search will involve metal detectors and sometimes a dog.
- Don't worry the dogs are friendly!