

Hidden Sentence Training

Because families serve sentences too

Hidden Sentence is a well known training course developed by Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families (now part of Family Lives) for professionals whose work brings them in contact with prisoners' families, including children's centre workers, troubled families workers, school staff, play workers, health visitors, and family intervention teams. This course gives a clear overview of the issues facing prisoners' families and provides a range of strategies and resources to help you support them.

What does Hidden Sentence offer?

Hidden Sentence will give you a clear overview of an offender's journey, how this affects their family from what happens on arrest to when they are released from prison. The training includes a range of strategies to help you in your work with families affected.

Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families, part of Family Lives, is the national provider of Hidden Sentence Training

"The training was professional and interesting. Thank you!"

Key facts

- 200,000 children have their parents sent to prison each year
- Prisoners families are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, intergenerational offending and poor mental health
- Practitioners often lack confidence in working with this group

Find out more about our different training courses available >>



Hidden Sentence Training

Because families serve sentences too

The need for working with families of offenders

More than **double the number** of children are affected by parental imprisonment than by divorce in the family.¹

It is estimated that more than **17,240 children** were separated from their mother in 2010 by imprisonment.²

Having a parent in prison approximately **trebles the risk** for antisocial or delinquent behaviour by their children.³

40% of prisoners said that **support from their family**, and 36% said that seeing their children, would help them stop reoffending in the future.⁴

(Source: Prison: the facts, Bromley Briefings Summer 2015)

1 Office for National Statistics (2011) *Divorces in England and Wales 2009*, Fareham: Office for National Statistics

2 Wilks-Wiffen, S. (2011) *Voice of a Child*, London: Howard League for Penal Reform

3 Murray, J., & Farrington, D.P. (2008) 'The effects of parental imprisonment on children'.

In M. Tonry (Ed.), *Crime and justice: A review of research* (Vol. 37, pp. 133-206). Chicago: University of Chicago Press

4 Ministry of Justice (2012) *Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds*, London: Ministry of Justice

Hidden Sentence

Our main Hidden Sentence course was reviewed and updated in 2014 and is suitable for any professionals working in the community and prison setting who work with offenders' and prisoners' families in any type of support role.

Who is the training for

- probation and CRC staff
- teachers and school/nursery staff
- prison staff
- health professionals
- youth and community professionals
- community and voluntary organisations
- youth offending teams

“I found the morning extremely useful and am far more confident in working with families.”

Learning outcomes

- Understand the impact of imprisonment on prisoners' families
- Improve your understanding of the prison system
- Understand the support needs of prisoners' families
- Understand the needs and wishes of prisoners' families
- Understand how to improve the coordination of services to provide more effective support for those affected by the imprisonment of a family member
- Understand how to improve your own practice in supporting prisoners' families



Hidden Sentence

For Parenting Practitioners

We have recently developed a new version of our Hidden Sentence training course specifically for parenting practitioners who want to understand more about the experience of families who have a loved one in prison, have just been released from prison, or are serving a community sentence.

A prison sentence can put severe stress on an individual's ability to parent. The emotional, financial and practical strains can push families to breaking point. Parenting support could make a vital difference at this point. Our new training will give practitioners the confidence and knowledge they need to support parents at this critical time.

Parents who remain in the home are suddenly asked to cope as single parents and manage issues ranging from finance to housing, whilst coping with the loss of a loved one. They may have to leave work in order to parent effectively plunging the family into poverty. Moreover, the stigma of imprisonment means that traditional routes of support such as friends, family and community may be closed to them. Hostility from the local community may even cause them to move house.

Find out how to support parents in this situation through Hidden Sentence for Parenting Practitioners.





Hidden Sentence ***Book a course***

How many people can attend a course?

All of our Hidden Sentence courses can be delivered in groups for a minimum of 10 delegates and a maximum of 20. Hidden Sentence and Hidden Sentence for Parenting Practitioners are one day courses.

How much does it cost?

Costs for a group training session start from £550 (ex VAT) per day depending on delegate numbers (course facilitator travel expenses are extra).

Are any course materials included?

We can send pdfs of course materials.

Are venue and refreshments included in the price?

Venue and refreshments to be provided by the commissioning organisation or for a negotiated fee on consultation.

Please contact us for a quotation and to discuss your requirements.

Visit www.parentinguk.org/our-work/training/