

The Missouri Department of Corrections understands the incarceration of a loved one is difficult for family and friends. Incarceration often brings a number of questions about the Department's operation and the reception and orientation process. To obtain answers

to some of those questions, the Department offers the "*For Family and Friends*" guidebook, which is available to you on our state web site. The Department also hosts **Family Orientation Meetings** at our diagnostic centers for immediate family members or significant others of a first time offender.

Family Orientation Meetings are held at least once each month at our diagnostic centers. These meetings, which last about one hour, provide general information about visiting, mail, sending money, offender classification, and a general summary of all aspects of incarceration. Staff will answer the most commonly asked questions family members routinely have about confinement in the Missouri Department of Corrections and provide you with materials to take home. Afterwards, you will be able to receive a brief, non-contact visit with your loved one if you are an immediate family member.

If you wish to attend a **Family Orientation Meeting** to learn more about the Department's rules and practices, you may contact the facility where your loved one is housed during the first weeks of their incarceration. Staff there will conduct general screening and if approved, will give you information about the date and time of the next meeting, make a reservation at that meeting for you, and provide you with directions to the facility. Children should not attend.

Here is a list of the Department's diagnostic centers, their address and telephone numbers.

FACILITY

Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center

2727 Highway K, Bonne Terre, MO 63628 Phone: (573) 358-5516

Fulton Reception & Diagnostic Center

P.O. Box 190, Route O, Fulton, MO 65251 Phone: (573) 592-4040

Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center

1101 East Highway 54, Vandalia, MO 63382 Phone: (573) 594-6686

Western Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center

3401 Faraon Street, St. Joseph, MO 64506 Phone: (816) 387-2158

I encourage each of you to accept this invitation to attend a **Family Orientation Meeting** so that you can learn as much about the Department as possible. Doing so can ensure you are well informed and able to provide support and guidance to your incarcerated loved one. Best wishes.