

# The Family Preservation and Accountability Act

Kentucky has one of the highest rates of children with incarcerated parents in the U.S., with an estimated 12% of children affected. The impact of parental incarceration has long-lasting consequences on children's health, education, and future involvement in the justice system. With 64% of women and 55% of men incarcerated in Kentucky being parents, the need for change is urgent.

The **Family Preservation and Accountability Act** addresses these challenges by expanding sentencing alternatives for primary caregivers convicted of non-violent offenses. This bill prioritizes family unity, reduces harm from the separation of parents and children, and offers a rehabilitative approach that preserves the parent-child relationship while safeguarding child safety.

## Key Components:

- **Sentencing Alternatives for Primary Caregivers:** Courts are required to consider an individual's caregiver status before sentencing for non-violent offenses and explore alternatives to incarceration when the individual does not pose a safety risk.
- **Focus on Rehabilitation:** The bill encourages sentences that support the parent-child relationship, including parenting programs, mental health counseling, and vocational training to reduce recidivism and improve family stability.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Courts must provide written findings on sentencing alternatives, and the Administrative Office of the Courts must report annually to the Kentucky General Assembly on the bill's implementation and impact.

## Why This Bill Matters:

- **Reduces adverse childhood experience** by preserving healthy parent-child relationships;
- **Lowers foster care placements** by enabling primary caregivers to remain at home;
- **Supports rehabilitation** to reduce recidivism and improve family stability;
- **Enhances public safety** through community-based alternatives to incarceration.

## Join Us in Supporting This Legislation:

