

PROBATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE

No.	896
Issued	01/28/03
Post Until	02/28/03

**SUBJECT: FAMILY FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM – A SENTENCING
ALTERNATIVE FOR PREGNANT OR PARENTING ADULT
FEMALE OFFENDERS**

The Family Foundations Program, operated by the California Department of Corrections (CDC) since 1999, has two residential treatment centers for eligible women and their children, one in Santa Fe Springs and one in San Diego County. The Probation Department has utilized the Santa Fe Springs facility for several years. Both facilities currently have openings. CDC has asked that all DPOs be reminded of this worthwhile program and consider it as an option for women who meet the criteria and for whom State Prison is being considered.

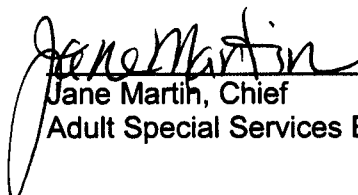
The bulletin (printed on the reverse of this Directive) from the Department of Corrections explains the program and details eligibility requirements. On a case by case basis, the program will now expand its criteria to consider a woman with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse. This change in policy constitutes an important new option for these clients.

Please note that a conviction for sales or possession for sale of illegal drugs precludes the defendant's participation in the program, as does a conviction for a violent offense (all exclusionary convictions are listed in PC1174.4).

DPOs who are considering a state prison recommendation for an eligible female offender, who is either pregnant or the parent of a child under six years of age, **shall** consider a recommendation for the Family Foundation Program pursuant to 1174 Penal Code. If so approved by the SDPO, the DPO must then call Gladys Nagy, Mental Health Liaison at (213) 351-2871 for clearance from the CDC in Sacramento. If they approve the defendant and indicate that a bed is available, the offender's eligibility and suitability for alternative sentencing is to be discussed in the "Evaluation" or "Remarks" section of the court report. **The following language is to conclude the "Evaluation" or "Remarks" section:**

**"THE DEFENDANT APPEARS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PLACEMENT CONSIDERATION
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS' FAMILY FOUNDATION PROGRAM
PURSUANT TO SECTION 1174 PENAL CODE.**

Any questions concerning this Directive may be referred to Gladys Nagy, Mental Health Liaison, at (213) 351-2871 or the Adult Consultant at (562) 940-2525.


Jane Martin, Chief
Adult Special Services Bureau


David M. Davies, Chief
Adult Field Services Bureau



The Family Foundations Program

California Department of Corrections

A New Chance for Inmate Mothers



FAMILY FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM:

The California Department of Corrections (CDC) Office of Community Resources (OCR) administers the Family Foundations Program (FFP). In June 1999, CDC's first Pregnant and Parenting Women's Alternative Sentencing Program Act (PPWASPA) correctional facility was activated in Los Angeles County. An additional facility was activated in San Diego County in March 2000. Each facility houses up to 35 women and 40 children.

AUTHORITY:

The authorizing legislation for the PPWASPA is Senate Bill 519, Chapter 63, Statute of 1994 and the Penal Code (PC) reference is Section 1174. Program services are delivered within a CDC-owned community correctional facility under the administration of the OCR, Women and Children's Services Unit (WCSU) in Sacramento.

PURPOSE:

The FFP is an alternative sentencing program for pregnant or parenting women with children under the age of six, who have been sentenced to State prison. Women in the FFP will participate in a community substance abuse treatment program while caring for their children. The FFP provides an opportunity for women to develop life skills, remain free from alcohol and drugs, become better parents, and successfully transition to the community. Program goals include drug relapse prevention and reduced recidivism of women who parole from the FFP. The primary program purpose is to break the inter-generational cycle of criminality.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

Inmate must voluntarily agree to participate and serve 12-months in the program. Twelve months is both the minimum and the maximum time served, regardless of pre-sentence, post-sentence, and work/behavioral credits. Any inmate removed from the program will be remanded to a State prison facility to serve the remainder of her original sentence. Successful graduates of the 12-month program are released to parole for a 12-month period.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA. (Must meet all of the following):

- ➡ Never served a prior prison term for, nor been convicted in the present proceedings of, committing or attempting to commit, any offense listed in PC 1174.4.
- ➡ Must be sentenced to State prison for a term not to exceed 36-months.
- ➡ Must be pregnant and/or have primary custody of one or more children under six years old at the time of entry into program. Note: Two-child limit.
- ➡ If applicable, there must be no objections from Department of Social Services to child's placement with Mother.
- ➡ Must not have a potential or active Felony hold or United States Immigration & Naturalization Services hold. Misdemeanor holds are not exclusionary criteria.
- ➡ Must have a history of substance abuse.