

Arizona Family Members Behind Bars
Difficult questions children ask...and answers that might help
Case Study Activity to Practice Using the Guide

Case Study Instructions: 15 minute time limit

- 1) Please take your time carefully reading the following case study, Michael's Story;

- 2) As a group, using the Arizona Family Members Behind Bars; Difficult questions children ask...and answers that might help, answer Michael's questions to his grandmother on the attached page; and **Please designate one group member to record the answers.**

- 3) When completed, please choose one of the questions and the answer to role play for the workshop participants. **Please designate one group member to be Michael and one to be the grandmother.**

For additional information: Please contact DeeAnn Arroyo, Director of Youth and Family Services, Pima Prevention Partnership, 520-791-2711 x2107; darroyo@thepartnership.us; www.thepartnership.us. For copies of the Guide in English and Spanish, call 1-877-312-1368.

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Case Study 1 (Arrest): Michael's Story

Michael is eleven years old. He has lived with his mother his entire life, except for six months when his mother was in a drug treatment program and six months when his mother was in jail. During these times Michael lived with his grandmother. Michael's father left when he was three years old. He saw his father regularly until he moved out-of-state last year. Now there are only phone calls. Michael is very smart and makes excellent grades in school. He is well behaved, but has a lot of problems with peers because he is bossy and demanding.

Michael's mother has struggled with substance abuse problems for all of Michael's life. When she is not using, she is a loving and caring mother. Michael and his mother are very close, but Michael is over-protective and feels he must take care of his mother whenever she relapses into active addiction.

Michael's mother was arrested for selling drugs. Her current boyfriend is a low level drug dealer and Michael's mother let him use her apartment to store his drugs. The police came to the house and took his mother away in hand-cuffs. His mother was screaming and crying. Michael was hysterical. Since Michael's mother was arrested, Michael has gone to live with his grandmother and has had to change schools.

Michael is very anxious and has many questions for this grandmother. Using the Caregiver's Guide, *Arizona Family Members Behind Bars*, help his 70 year old grandmother to answer the Michael's difficult questions, so he can feel safe and cope with the stress and disruption of his mother's arrest.

- 1. *Is my mother safe?***
- 2. *Will I ever see my mother again?***
- 3. *What will happen to me?***

Case Study 2 (Court and Conviction): Michael's Story

Michael is eleven years old. He has lived with his mother his entire life, except for six months when his mother was in a drug treatment program and six months when his mother was in jail. During these times Michael lived with his grandmother. Michael's father left when he was three years old. He saw his father regularly until he moved out-of-state last year. Now there are only phone calls. Michael is very smart and makes excellent grades in school. He is well behaved, but has a lot of problems with peers because he is bossy and demanding.

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Michael's mother is scheduled to go to court and Michael is anxious and has many questions about court and what will happen if his mother is found guilty of the charges. Using the *Caregiver's Guide, Arizona Family Members Behind Bars*, help his 70 year old grandmother to answer the Michael's difficult questions, so he can feel safe and cope with the stress and disruption of his mother's arrest.

- 1. Can I go to Court to help my Mom?**
- 2. Is it my fault that she is not coming home?**
- 3. My mother's boyfriend hid the drugs at our apartment. What happened to him?**

Case Study 3 (Sentenced, goes to prison): Michael's Story

Michael is eleven years old. He has lived with his mother his entire life, except for six months when his mother was in a drug treatment program and six months when his mother was in jail. During these times Michael lived with his grandmother. Michael's father left when he was three years old. He saw his father regularly until he moved out-of-state last year. Now there are only phone calls. Michael is very smart and makes excellent grades in school. He is well behaved, but has a lot of problems with peers because he is bossy and demanding.

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Michael's mother was arrested for selling drugs. Her current boyfriend is a low level drug dealer and Michael's mother let him use her apartment to store his drugs. The police came to the house and took his mother away in hand-cuffs. His mother was screaming and crying. Michael was hysterical. Since Michael's mother was arrested, Michael has gone to live with his grandmother and has had to change schools.

Michael's mother was charged and found guilty of charge of selling and is awaiting sentencing. Michael is very anxious and frightened about the sentence and how much time his mother will spend in prison. Using the Caregiver's Guide, *Arizona Family Members Behind Bars*, help his 70 year old grandmother to answer the Michael's difficult questions, so he can feel safe and cope with the stress and disruption of his mother's arrest.

- 1. *Can I tell the judge that I want my mother to come home?***
- 2. *What will it be like to visit prison?***
- 3. *What if I do something wrong? Will I have to go to prison?***