

## Survey to Chief APOs

### Issue: Children in Probation Building

#### Question (from Lancaster County):

We are having a debate about clients bringing their children with them to our building/appointments and whether we should prohibit that practice. Understanding that some of you have juvenile as well, I'm wondering if anyone prohibits your adult clients from bringing their children with them to your building/appointments? And if so, what lead to that decision?

I appreciate any input you have on the matter. And I should have mentioned we already have a separate waiting room for our sex offender unit clients.

#### Bucks County

All PO's are advised to notify probationers/parolees that, when they are directed to report to the office, they should not bring children with them. We do the majority of our supervision in the community and, when requested to come to the office, it is usually for some type of disciplinary reason, including arrest. We have three supervision offices throughout Bucks County and all of them have very small waiting areas. We took this stance after waiting for Children/Youth to arrive to take custody of small children, after the parent or guardian had been taken into custody. If an offender comes to the office with a small child and another adult is present, we ask the other adult to take the child a leave the office.

#### Dauphin County

York County provided Dauphin's response. Historically, child care and lack of support has always been an issue. Offenders would use their children as an excuse to why they could not make an office appt. We do have protocol in place for those offenders who will be detained and bring their child.

#### Lebanon County

I concur with York County's remarks

#### York County

We have considered this over the years for the following reasons: sex offenders in the waiting room, disruptive appointments if the kids are acting out, drug testing and arrests. It is inevitable that when a client believes they may be arrested, they bring their kids hoping we won't arrest them.

Even with all of these issues, we've never pulled the trigger to not allow kids, because frequently our clients struggle with child care issues and lack of supports to watch their kids for them. Supervision is difficult enough without us throwing extra obstacles in their path.