

THREE REASONS INCARCERATED PARENTS HAVE THEIR PARENTAL RIGHTS TERMINATED

In Arizona, the Department of Child Safety is asked to make every effort to minimize the length of time that a child lives in out-of-home care. Therefore, the length of your incarceration and the type of crime you have been convicted of significantly impact the ultimate goal the department establishes for the care of your child. The following three are reasons you may run the risk of your parental rights being terminated.

BASED ON ARIZONA LAW

PRISON SENTENCE LENGTH



The law has no bright line time period of when a sentence is sufficiently long to warrant the termination of a parent-child relationship. However, the length of your sentence may be sufficient to do so.

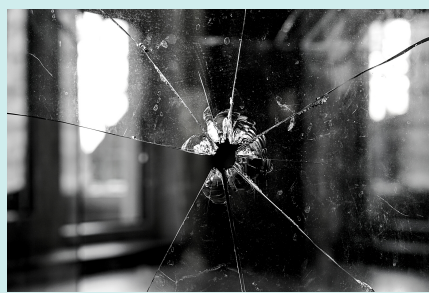
15-MONTHS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE



If your child is in foster care for a period that is 15 months or longer and your release is not in the near future, DCS will likely determine that reunification services will be futile and that termination of your parental rights is in the best interest of your child.

**IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO ARRANGE FOR THE CARE
OF YOUR CHILD IF YOU HAVE A LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCE.**

TYPE OF FELONY



If the type of felony you are convicted of demonstrates that you are substantially unfit to be a parent, DCS will petition to have your parental rights terminated. Common types of crimes include murder and child abuse.

SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS SEEK LEGAL ADVICE. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD AN ATTORNEY CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID ORGANIZATION WHICH MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE LOW COST/FREE LEGAL ADVICE. KEEP IN MIND THAT IF A PETITION IS FILED TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY DURING THESE PROCEEDINGS.