



## Immigration Makes Everything About Incarceration More Challenging

It is well documented that losing a parent to prison can tragically impact a child's life. Research indicates that parental separation due to imprisonment can have profound consequences on a child emotionally, psychologically, developmentally, and financially. For some of our Seedling mentees, there is an opportunity to reunite with his/her parent after release, and a chance to rebuild their relationship. For others, the hope of reunification never comes to fruition because the parent is deported. When this occurs, the child and family are left in the dark about what happens next. Can they visit? Do they have rights?

As a mentor of a child whose parent has been deported, it is tough to console with so many unknowns. Last month, Seedling invited Immigration Attorney Robert F. Loughran, J.D., to our Mentor Training to shed light on the mysteries of the deportation system and processes. While every case is unique, the following documents will help mentors have a general understanding.

To view Mr. Loughran's powerpoint presentation, *Effect of Criminal Convictions on Non-Citizens* [click here](#)

To read the handout *Immigrant Parents in Deportation Proceedings* [click here](#)

To view the brochure *Know Your Rights if You are Not a US Citizen and You Are Arrested for a Criminal Charge* [click here](#)

In the same way that children of U.S. citizens may offer questionable information about a parent's status with the justice system, the child of a deportee may offer something they have heard or believe that is contrary to the information in these documents. **The role of the mentor** is to remain nonjudgmental and deal with the youngster's feelings, rather than try to offer any different knowledge.