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# Disrupted Childhoods: Children Of Women In Prison (Rutgers Series In Childhood Studies)



## DISRUPTED CHILDHOODS

Children  
of Women  
*in* Prison

JANE A. SIEGEL



## **Synopsis**

Millions of children in the United States have a parent who is incarcerated and a growing number of these nurturers are mothers. *Disrupted Childhoods* explores the issues that arise from a mother's confinement and provides first-person accounts of the experiences of children with moms behind bars. Jane A. Siegel offers a perspective that recognizes differences over the long course of a family's interaction with the criminal justice system. Presenting an unparalleled view into the children's lives both before and after their mothers are imprisoned, this book reveals the many challenges they face from the moment such a critical caregiver is arrested to the time she returns home from prison. Based on interviews with nearly seventy youngsters and their mothers conducted at different points of their parent's involvement in the process, the rich qualitative data of *Disrupted Childhoods* vividly reveals the lived experiences of prisoners' children, telling their stories in their own words. Siegel places the mother's incarceration in context with other aspects of the youths' experiences, including their family life and social worlds, and provides a unique opportunity to hear the voices of a group that has been largely silent until now.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Criminology professor Siegel examines the experiences of two groups of children with mothers involved in the criminal justice system: children whose mothers have been arrested but not yet sentenced, and children whose mothers have been incarcerated for at least one year. A very

compelling book. Highly recommended." (Choice 2012-01-01)"Jane Siegel has written a sociological study that speaks, sotto voce, to the dire need to reform the USA's criminal justice policies and practices. There are times, though, when her text screams out at us. Incarcerated mothers lie at the center of Siegel's text, but their children occupy the field, and this is a battlefield. The children are pitted against poverty, drugs, poor schooling, and violence, and Siegel brings us into their lives—•with and without their mothers. Siegel carefully builds a case against our 'nation's historic experiment with mass incarceration'." (Teachers College Record 2012-03-23)

Jane A. Siegel is an associate professor of criminology at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey and chair of the department of sociology, anthropology, and criminal justice. She has published numerous articles on the long-term consequences of child sexual abuse, risk factors for victimization, and the effects of parental incarceration.

Comprehensive review of the lives of children of incarcerated parents and how it impacts their lives.

Dr. Siegel's new book is the culmination of years of not only academic research but years of interviews in prison and interviews with the victims. Her work is meticulous but her passion for her field of interest is remarkable. Dr Siegel is one of the most amazing professors - she cares so deeply for these unfortunate children , At the same ame time her teaching skills are such that her students are the luckiest recipients of all her hard work. She adores teaching and is one of a kind!

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