Keeping CHILDREN SAFE at the Time of Parental Arrest

☐ **Ask** whether children are present? Look for toys, clothing, diapers. Make sure all children are accounted for.

☐ **Explain** to children what is happening to arrestee.

☐ **Out of sight**: try not to handcuff/question parents in front of children.

☐ **Work with arrestee to make arrangements** for children— if possible.

☐ **Ask children** for input about where they want to go.

☐ **Give time** for parent to reassure children—if appropriate.

☐ **Conduct a background check** for sex offender registration or violence against children before releasing the child.

☐ **If necessary**, make arrangements to transfer children to state custody.

☐ **Explain** to children and caregiver what happens next.

☐ **Document** children’s names, gender, age; names and contact information for guardians/caregivers and others involved in placement or custody, name of schools attended.