

# 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.