

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS DAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

WHEREAS, more than 5 million children live with a parent who has been involved in the criminal justice system at some point, and approximately 1 in 14 children have a parent who is currently incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, these children are at a higher risk of adverse childhood experiences, insecure attachment, social stigma, unstable family relationships, physical and mental health issues and low educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, contact between incarcerated parents and their children can help reduce these risk factors for the children and reduces recidivism for the incarcerated parent; and

WHEREAS, strong family support, including contact with children, is a significant factor in successful reintegration into society after release, and maintaining contact with an incarcerated parent can help mitigate feelings of abandonment, anxiety and other negative emotions in children; and

WHEREAS, children who maintain contact with their incarcerated parents often exhibit better social skills, emotional regulation and fewer behavioral problems; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to help reduce risk factors to both children and parents through education, promoting family contact while incarcerated and reducing social stigma.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
September 15, 2026, **CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS DAY**
in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE