

The Office of the [Ombuds for Corrections \(OBFC\)](#) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) are collaborating in creating a pilot **Family and Friends of Incarcerated Group** in order to strengthen the ability of loved ones (family members, partners, familial supports) of incarcerated individuals to provide positive support for their incarcerated loved ones. The virtual group aims to:

- Provide education on DOC policy and processes and other helpful topics.
- Provide facility updates.
- Provide connection and support.

Each meeting will provide an educational component, along with facility updates, and an opportunity for facilitated questions.

The group does not have any authority over DOC policies, DOC staff, OBFC staff, or other incarcerated individuals. Due to data privacy practices, we cannot share information about incarcerated persons with the group. This is not a forum for questions about individual loved ones or for complaints about specific issues, but an opportunity to learn about general processes overall and provide positive support.

MCF – St. Cloud has been chosen as one of the facilities for this pilot project. This pilot project is limited and **available only to those who currently have loved ones at St. Cloud**. If you wish to participate in this group, please click on the following link to register:

[https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-ugpzopHzzaMe9c\\_HFFp5SxOaeXVTs](https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-ugpzopHzzaMe9c_HFFp5SxOaeXVTs)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The pilot program meets online monthly, on the second Wednesday of the month from 6pm-7pm.