

WS F&CB MENTOR MESSAGE #66

October 25, 2019

Prisoner Transfers to Transition Centers

In the past few weeks some of you have had questions about what you can do if your mentee has been released to a Transition Center (TC). I passed the questions to the staff at Walker who then forwarded the questions to the State Department of Corrections HQ in Forsythe, GA for clarification and reply. Please see the following that comes directly from the Statewide Transitional Center Coordinator and the Coordinator for Volunteer Services in the State office:

Thank you for allowing me to respond to the questions referenced below. I carefully reviewed each question considering what would assist the residents in making a successful transition. Unfortunately, we cannot grant permission to any of the questions below. However, at a transitional center, the counselors and volunteers can work closely to get a lot of things accomplished.

The following have all been denied:

1. *May we begin to have contact with their family to help with transition? **NO***
2. *Can we provide money to help them transition out of the facility? **NO***
3. *May we now give them our cell numbers and addresses for communications since they have cell phones? **NO***
4. *Can we be put on their visitation list at the TC? **NO***
5. *May we interact with them when they are on pass from the TC? **NO***

If the mentors would like to make contact with the counselors at each TC when their mentee arrives, they may be able to assist that way.

Fellows, when your mentee is transferred, we will tell you where he has been sent, will give you a mailing address, and whether the facility has JPay. You can continue to correspond and be involved in his life.

In one case recently, a mentor contacted a local church nearby the TC. Church members there will engage with the counseling staff to support the prisoner.

Alternatively, you/we can contact counseling staff at the TCs and then follow their lead in how you/we may be of assistance.

Together we are blessed to be involved in such an important work of mercy and service.

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Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. (Psalm 34:3)