

ASK AN INMATE PROGRAM

INMATE SELECTION PROTOCOLS

The Ask an Inmate program is geared toward fifth and sixth grade students and is an interactive discussion with inmates who tell the students their life stories about the wrong choices they made that brought them into the criminal justice system. The goal of the program is: (1) to teach students about the importance of education and making good decisions; (2) the consequences of peer pressure and gang involvement; and (3) the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

The Deputy Sheriff assigned to the RJC Kids' Court/Ask an Inmate program should work with the administrative, booking, and jail deputies to screen and select inmates to participate in the program. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office has the discretion to screen and select inmate who they believe would interact well with fifth and sixth grade students. Please attempt to locate inmates who will be able to serve for a few months at a time so they become accustomed to the program. Please take time to prepare the inmates for participation in the program by explaining the program goals and what to expect when they enter the courtroom.

When inmates are screened for the program, be sure to advise them this is a public forum and statements they make could potentially be used against them if they have pending cases. It is important that the deputy who facilitates Ask an Inmate not allow the inmates to make statements that would violate their Constitutional right against self-incrimination.

Inmates are prohibited from participating in the program if they have any criminal history related to sex offenses or have cases assigned to Department Four and may be sentenced by Judge Pearson.

It is preferred that inmates who participate in the program have the following characteristics:

- gang affiliations;
- served jail and prison crime;
- history of substance abuse;
- tattoos; and
- prior involvement in the juvenile justice system.