



## State of Connecticut Department of Correction

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### For Immediate Release

# Department of Correction Initiates Video Visitation Program for Juveniles

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In an effort to ease concerns of worried parents and loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Connecticut Department of Correction has begun the use of video visits for juvenile offenders housed at both the Manson Youth and York Correctional Institutions.



State Representative Toni Walker  
"visits" with a juvenile housed at  
the Manson Youth Institution.

The first "pilot" video visit was held on May 1, 2020, between a juvenile housed at the Manson Youth Institution and State Representatives Robin Porter and Toni Walker.

The York Correctional Institution conducted its first video visits on May 8, 2020.

Video visits will be offered, at no cost to the offenders, Monday through Friday. Eligible juvenile offenders are permitted one 30-minute video visit per week.

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Video "visitors" must be on the juveniles' approved visitors list in order to participate in a video visit. In order to participate, a video

visitor must download the ***Zoom Cloud Meetings*** application on a smart phone, laptop, or tablet that has video and audio capabilities.

Up to three authorized adult visitors may participate in a “visit,” while a minor may only participate if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

The video visits are only being offered to juvenile offenders at the Manson Youth and York Correctional Institutions at present, plans are in the works to expand the program to additional correctional facilities.

“Maintaining contact with family members and loved ones during a period of incarceration is essential, especially now during the pandemic, and even more so for juvenile offenders,” said Commissioner Rollin Cook. “Video visits can help provide an important emotional connection, and sense of normalcy during these very unusual and trying times.”