

To: Heatherlove,

Yes, we made the decision to tell my children where I was when they asked. So they knew. They were 7, 3 and 2. However, we weren't specific until they asked for specifics. Until then, dad is in prison because the police made a mistake and believed the people who had lied on him. We then used this example to continue teaching them the importance of always telling the truth.

I fully understand your concern for not bringing your daughter in an environment like this. Just know that I would never bring any of my children in a place if I remotely thought it would harm them in any way. The government knows the same. In fact, they are so sure of the benefits that I know that there are no states that bar children from visiting a family member without good reasons.

Eventually, someone will have to explain to her this situation because she will find out one way or another. So I'd suggest that the 2 of you get out in front of it and tell her when you think she's ready. Just keep in mind that she'll be ready before you think she will.

Don't worry how she will see her father. The visiting room looks more like a cafeteria or large break room. She won't see him handcuffed or behind bars or anything like that. My children had to actually ask me "what's this place dad?"

Keep your head up ma.

Rich.