



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE
ROOM 456, CITY HALL
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102



**PAUL MIYAMOTO
SHERIFF**

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**Contact: Nancy Crowley
(415) 554-4469 or 415-238-5488
Email: sfso.media@sfgov.org**

SF Sheriff Launches Video Visits for Incarcerated Moms on Mother's Day

San Francisco Sheriff Paul Miyamoto today announced a new program which will give justice-involved mothers video visits with their children beginning Sunday, May 10 -- Mother's Day.

"When COVID-19 emerged as a public health threat in early March, our staff worked around the clock to set up video visits in our jails," said Sheriff Miyamoto. "We built WiFi networks where none existed, purchased tablets and negotiated Vendor licenses to make this happen."

Sheriff Miyamoto had suspended in-person county jail visits and programs on March 14, 2020 to protect incarcerated persons, staff and visitors against exposure to COVID-19.

"It was with a heavy heart that we put our visiting program on hold because of COVID concerns," said Sheriff Miyamoto, "but we simply had to do so to protect everyone's health. Staying connected with loved ones is vital to our incarcerated population's well-being and successful reentry. Our staff went into overdrive to build an alternative way for people in our custody to remain in contact with their family and friends."

Sheriff's rehabilitation service coordinators are scheduling video visits in 30-minute increments for this Sunday. Sheriff Miyamoto plans to expand video visits to the other facilities within the coming weeks.

The Office of the Sheriff serves the people of San Francisco by administering the county jails, providing security for the Superior Court and other high-profile public buildings, and performing civil court orders. Led by elected Sheriff Paul Miyamoto, the Sheriff's Office employs more than 850 sworn staff and almost 200 non-sworn employees.