Abstract: Familial relationships and their importance are discussed basing on the six biographies of inmates of a penitentiary unit (three women and three men). Perceiving their life-specific stories, one may notice how familial relationships formed during childhood can influence adulthood. Predominant focus is attached to the immediate family, namely – mother, father, and siblings, mainly because they form the very first and the most important environment of a given human being. Analyzing the biographies of the incarcerated individuals, it can be concluded that people from complete families that have functioned properly can count on support even when isolated, whereas individuals from broken families not only have to deal with their wrong choices, but also do not have sufficient support when they are deprived of freedom.

Keywords: family, relationships, inmate, biographies.