

OREGON CURE

Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants

A Newsletter for Incarcerated People and their Families and Friends

P.O. Box 80193 – Portland, OR 97280 (503) 977-9979



Fall 2021, Volume 66

IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE AN INDIVIDUAL IS ON A VISITING LIST PRIOR TO TRAVELING TO VISIT AN AIC, DUE TO CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PANDEMIC. THE ODOC'S VISITING SERVICES IS STILL PROCESSING APPLICATIONS – IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF VISITING APPROVAL CHECK THE STATUS AND IF NEEDED, APPLY TODAY!

While visitation is not yet fully open for all ODOC facilities, DOC's Visiting Services Unit remains open and working hard to process visiting applications for you and your loved ones.

Waiting to submit applications until visitation has resumed could result in a delay. **Now is the time to get applications submitted.**

- **Encourage family and friends to submit online applications.**
- You may also submit applications directly to the Visitor and Volunteer Services Unit for processing using: **DOC.Visitors@doc.state.or.us**

All visitors must ensure they are on the adult in custody's approved visitors list **before** scheduling an in-person visit. While the online system allows for scheduling regardless of visitor status, the visit will be denied at the institution if the visitor is not approved. Check with your incarcerated loved one to ensure your visiting status is up to date.

Please visit ODOC's website (available 24/7) for the most accurate and up-to-date information on institution visiting: **[Department of Corrections : Welcome Page : State of Oregon](#)**

This website link **[Department of Corrections : Visiting : Visiting : State of Oregon](#)** takes you directly to the Visiting section with information on:

- Visiting requirements and restrictions;
- A quick visiting checklist – what to bring and what to leave at home or in a facility locker; and
- Anti-drug smuggling information.

The site also has links to the following specifics:

- How to become a visitor
- Visiting guidelines
- Arriving at the Facility
- Visiting hours
- Visiting alerts
- COVID-19 Visiting Rules for each Institution/Facility

The ODOC recognizes the importance of family connections and are working hard to ensure applications are being processed in a timely manner.

Doc.visitors@doc.state.or.us

Senate Bill 819 Frequently Asked Questions: September 2021 Answered by Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College.

1. What is Senate Bill 819 (SB 819)?

SB 819 establishes a procedure for people convicted of and sentenced for felony offenses to petition their sentencing court for reconsideration of their conviction(s) and/or sentence(s). **The petition must be jointly submitted by the person and the district attorney of the county in which the person was sentenced.**

2. When does SB 819 go into effect?

SB 819 goes into effect on January 1, 2022. No petitions for reconsideration under SB 819 can be considered prior to January 1, 2022.

3. Are any convictions ineligible under SB 819?

A person convicted of **aggravated murder is not eligible** to petition for reconsideration under SB 819.

4. How will district attorneys in each county handle SB 819 petitions?

Over the coming months, district attorneys will determine their policies relating to SB 819. Some district attorneys may develop criteria and an application process, some may do nothing. It will be up to each district attorney to decide if and how they will use SB 819.

5. What must a joint petition include?

This is a very new law, so no sample motion or template exists at this time. Based on the statute, a SB 819 petition must specify **each conviction under reconsideration and the terms of the agreement between a person and the district attorney.** The terms can include: dismissal of charges, vacating previous convictions, a plea to a new offense, resentencing for the original conviction, or sentencing for the new offense.

6. What factors will the court consider?

The court may consider various factors, including—but not limited to—the person's:

- **Disciplinary record** while incarcerated
- Their **record of rehabilitation** while incarcerated
- The amount of **time already served**
- **Evidence that** the person's age, time served, or mental/physical condition **decreases the risk of future violence**
- **Evidence that shows a change in circumstances** since the original sentencing.

7. Once a joint petition is filed, what are the next steps?

Once a joint petition is filed, the sentencing court will hold a hearing. If the court grants the petition, it has to proceed in accordance with the terms of the agreement in the petition.

8. Will the victim of the crime be notified of the filing under SB 819?

SB 819 requires the district attorney to use reasonable efforts to inform the victim(s) of each associated conviction and includes the victim(s) receiving a copy of the petition, the ability to provide input during the process, and the opportunity during the hearing to make a statement.

9. If a person is resentenced under SB 819, do they receive credit for time served?

Yes, a person resentenced under SB 819 receives credit for time served.

THE HOBBY SHOP-A WORLD OF CREATIVITY

Written by D. Smith and Submitted by Steve. Thank you both.

The Hobby Shop-A world of creativity such as jewelry, leather, art, carving pens from wood or other materials, crocheting, candles, beadwork.

What I have seen in others and experienced myself in 16 years of creative exercise. Men come out to the shop still held by the limits of criminal thinking or simply negative thought patterns learned in life, or for some, told from childhood, "you'll never amount to anything you are no good".

I've seen very negative men within a year's time change to not only positive language but positive encouragement to Others. My own experience, "You'll never amount to anything", fades in a world of creativity as new possibilities are discovered. Where boundaries and limitations once existed, now new horizons are a daily focus and positive thinking takes hold. Where the mind goes the feet follow.

Now I see men helping other men daily, a privilege I do not take for granted. The hobby shop is a program of positive possibilities, and the ripple effect far outreaches the shop. The hobby shop is just a home-plate program: batter up!

A view I never get tired of in the Hobby Shop-A Common Ground for Building.

I remember when Gary 1st started in the hobby shop. Like many in their 1st months, again and again I heard "I'll never get the hang of it, I'll never get my stuff to the quality I see guys making". So, I tell him we've all been in the struggle, each of us have made mistakes trying to build products new to us, or simply do something clumsy like sewing a zipper pocket closed: You've made this beautiful purse, you're done, and you are checking it over, making sure everything is just right. You open the zipper up to put your hand in and what! No pocket?! Oh no, what did I do? And how do I fix this?

Yet at one time or another every leather worker here has done it and it works out just like life. If you don't quit, but you work your way through it, that's when you learn little tricks of the trade that no one can teach you and you become better at whatever you had to work through and not give up. Today Gary is making leather items no one else in the shop makes and the quality is as good as your top- quality designer handbags out there. There is another man who came to prison a thief and now works with his hands to provide for others who find themselves in bad circumstances.

It's a beautiful thing to see. A man comes out to the shop, some carry with them negative thought patterns that have been built over a lifetime here while learning a trade, exercising creative muscles, he didn't know he had. Before you know it, that negative thought pattern dissolves somewhere along the line of men reaching out and helping other men, setting differences aside and simply meeting on common ground in craft and creativity. The next thing you know, positive Words and Actions take over where negative thoughts and defeat used to make live. Oh, and the thief; it's a beautiful thing to hear the joy in his heart as he tells me about the leather jewelry-box he is making to send out to someone who has fallen on hard times, hoping it will bring them some joy in knowing that someone cares. Today, instead of taking for himself, his thought process is how he can give back to society. Oh, and if you are wondering if the Lord is involved, YES, God has cultivated this man's heart! The Hobby Shop-A Common Ground for Building. Men reaching out to help other men and in turn they begin reaching out. Simple, but it works.

BOOK REVIEW

Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing, by Ten Conover, New York, Random House, 2001 –
Reviewed by Scott Spencer-Wolff, Ph.D.

Newjack celebrates its 20th anniversary. This is an excellent start for someone wanting to learn more about the social dynamics of working in a large, older State Prison, which is pretty much the norm for many corrections line employees these days.

It's helpful to have a criminal justice perspective that includes both those doing time because of adjudications and those doing time daily, 8 hours at a time. Substantial transformations to the prison system won't be adequate without addressing both residents and staff and their respective needs, which are not in any way mutually exclusive.

Often "reformers," along with friends or family of the incarcerated, hear a one-sided view of those who are charged with supervising our enormous population of mentally ill and violent offenders. That doesn't mean the picture is wrong. It may often be, however, limited.

Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing is an introduction to the world of correctional personnel worth your time. A little dated in a few cases, but still excellent overview of the training (or lack of) and work-life as a CO.

Ted Conover, an anthropologist and contributing writer for the New York Times Magazine, was fascinated with prisons - and not just from the perspective of those in custody. He asked the State of New York's Department of Corrections to shadow a CO for a year and was turned down. So, he got a job as an NYDOC Corrections Officer.

Conover describes the training and the background of his fellow trainees in fascinating terms. "Corrections" wasn't a big part of that training, nor were communications. Cultural indoctrination into the "guard culture" seems more the focus, with weapons and personal safety training thrown in for good measure. Then, on to the job.

The CO's job primarily consists of long days locking and unlocking cells, moving prisoners to and from various locations while the prisoners beg, hassle, and abuse the staff. Sometimes, the prisoners' requests are simple but against the rules: an extra shower or phone time. Other times, they are appropriate but unbelievably complicated: it can take months to get information about property lost in the transfer from one prison to another.

Meanwhile, the orders officers give are routinely ignored. Discipline -- even among the officers themselves -- is non-existent. And with the money and benefits of this "good" job come nightmares and family stress, daily uncertainty about one's post and duties, and pent-up frustration that, every so often, explodes in violence -- instigated by staff as well as by prisoners.

In training, Conover is told that "the most important thing you can learn here is to communicate with inmates." And the Sing Sing staff who enjoy the most success and fulfillment in their jobs are those who communicate: who make clear what privileges they will bestow and what orders the prisoners must follow, and who respect the prisoners' ability to behave accordingly.

But the few officers who manage to build this wary cooperation with inmates are swamped by those who distribute favors and punishments inconsistently and who isolate themselves, as much as possible, from the prisoners.

Experienced corrections professionals have no trouble seeing this as a recipe for disaster. The result is inconsistency in the treatment of prisoners and a job with few rewards for staff. One out of three officers depart within the first year.

The complications of staffing and the high turnover discourages staff from investing in relationships with each other. (Oregon primarily uses a rotation system to address this, which gives an officer six months in a position for these and similar reasons.)

Conover's immersion in the world of Sing Sing is limited - he doesn't examine where Sing Sing's problems might have originated. He doesn't examine those genuinely effective staff who work hard to make a positive difference -- and there are many. All line staff seem to be fighting the cultural tide of "us/themism" which is a dominant factor in police cultures. What dynamic or personality trait renders some "effective" while others don't even try, is unexplored.

Reading **Newjack**, one appreciates the challenges, chaos, and stress of an officers' job. One is less sure how officers manage to do it and what the emotional and psychological cost to their sense of self. With a few well-chosen stories, Conover humanizes individual prisoners. As a result, those in custody are often drawn with more color than the staff, although some of the staff descriptions are pretty fascinating.

Even though Conover does not give as complete a picture as some would like, a deeper dive into the sociology of these two groups, for example - his very readable book is a rough, unsparing, passionate warning that the heedless rush to imprison people hurts everyone. Conover manages to point out the parallel or mirrored cultures of staff and inmates and how, in our present system, one culture feeds the other. It reminds me how difficult it is to model pro-social or "correctional" behavior when everyone is on the same dysfunctional wavelength.

Conover illustrates that we are bound to treat prison staff as sanitation workers, only without the pay -- and best out of sight when we treat prisoners like society's garbage. Both prisoners and officers deserve better. I believe that **Newjack** lays some foundation for how we can do better and how we MUST do better.

ABOUT THE BOOK REVIEW AUTHOR

Scott Spencer-Wolff has served more than 15 years incarcerated on the installment plan. His experience with the prison system has been uniquely positive and he remains passionate about the potential of transformation for everyone. Scott received a Ph.D. in 2014 in Transpersonal Psychology while working at Apple on their Special Resources team. His dissertation was on the relationship between lifers and those doing shorter sentences.

Oregon CURE thanks board member Scott Spencer-Wolff for this submission to our newsletter.

The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice features art and writing from justice-involved persons and advocates. Through a combination of personal testimonies and research, *The Journal* highlights issues related to women and incarceration.

The second edition will be published in January of 2022.

Here is an opportunity for formerly and currently incarcerated women to submit art or writing for the journal, please do so before Dec. 10, 2021

Guidelines for Submissions:

- The Winter 2021 edition of *The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice* will focus upon mass incarceration. What does it look like? How does it feel, both to justice-involved and to justice-impacted people? What are the causes and effects of mass incarceration, as demonstrated by research and lived experience? How can we end mass incarceration? These are all questions you might consider exploring in your work. Please take them as recommendations, not requirements.
- You may submit as many pieces as you would like. We ask that you title your submission(s).
- You may submit your entry using your name or anonymously. If you are willing and able, we ask that you include a brief biography and photo.
- If you include a bio and are comfortable sharing, we ask that you specify where you are from. If you have been incarcerated and are comfortable sharing, we would also ask that you state where you were or are incarcerated.
- If you mention anyone specifically by name, please first ask their permission or, if that is not possible, use a pseudonym. Please change or limit details which might identify persons mentioned in your work.
- Please send your submission to women.reentry@gmail.com or, if email is not available to you, please mail your entry to: **New Jersey Reentry Corporation, ATTN: *The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice*** 591 Summit Ave. STE 605B, Jersey City, NJ 07306
- In your cover letter, please state how you found out about *The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice* and if any organizations or individuals assisted in your writing or artmaking process.
- We accept art submissions in any medium (photography, drawing, printmaking, painting, etc.)
- Art submissions should be submitted in PDF, JPG, or PNG format. We ask that photo submissions be of high resolution (at least 800px).
- Written entries can be autobiographical or fictional narratives; research reports or analyses; op-eds; or poetry, short stories, and other creative works.
- There is not a minimum or maximum page length or word count requirement.
- Submissions may be typed or handwritten. If your writing is typed, we ask that you submit it in Times New Roman font, size 12, double spaced.
- If you refer to outside sources in your submission, please cite your sources using Chicago-Style footnotes and a works cited page.
- All writing will be edited for grammar and potentially for content.

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at women.reentry@gmail.com or by mail at New Jersey Reentry Corporation (ATTN: *The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice*), 591 Summit Ave. STE 605B, Jersey City, NJ 07306). If you would like a hard copy of the first edition of *The Journal*, please notify us and provide us with the best mailing address. **Oregon CURE thanks Sofia Lesnewski and the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC), a non-profit organization that provides critical services to individuals returning from incarceration, for this submission to our newsletter.**

Introducing: The Oregon Phoenix Foundation (OPF).

Finally! The IRS has finalized and approved the long-awaited 501(c)(3) Status for the Oregon Phoenix Foundation. We're so excited.

The OPF was conceived as a "pass through" foundation, allowing us to reach out to other existing foundations to fund resources and projects for the Oregon Prison Community. We define the Oregon Prison Community as those serving time inside, whether by adjudication or career choice and resources as material (equipment), educational/transformational (classes, tuition, speakers, books, etc.) not otherwise available through budget or regular funding processes.

There are many resources we believe would be helpful to Adults in Custody not fundable through regular state budget channels. We have also found that many are willing to donate targeted donations and have not had a process to do that until now. We can make that happen. Contact us with your questions.

A special shout out to the Seeding Justice Foundation (Formally the MRG Foundation) for their very generous assistance, which made the Oregon Phoenix Foundation possible. Their vision for a better world inspires us in every way.

We look forward to hearing from you: Contact us at:

The Oregon Phoenix Foundation, PO Box 231113 * Tigard, OR 97281, 503-844-9145 * drscott_iCloud.com

ARE YOU RECENTLY RELEASED OR RELEASING? IF SO, OREGON CURE WANTS TO KNOW

A survey created by Oregon CURE. This survey is for individuals released from OREGON facilities only. No personal information is required. The link below will take you to the survey. <https://form.jotform.com/211037432097147> Thanks so much for your time. Oregon CURE Board

HELP SUPPORT OREGON CURE WHEN YOU SHOP

Amazon: Help us earn .05% for all of your Amazon purchases by selecting Oregon CURE on Amazon Smile. Visit smile.amazon.com and search for Oregon CURE. Select Oregon CURE and start shopping using the smile.amazon.com URL every time!

Fred Meyer: Link your Fred Meyer rewards card with Oregon CURE and Fred Meyer's will send us a quarterly donation. It's easy! Visit FredMeyer.com/community-rewards then Link Your Rewards Card Now. Login to your account or sign up and then search for Oregon CURE (Org # BN477).

Neither of these options results in a higher price for your purchases. Amazon and Fred Meyer simply send us a small portion of the sales for persons who make purchases that are linked to Oregon CURE. A great way to help us as you shop.

SPEAKING OF SHOPPING

Did you read about the Hobby Shop at Oregon State Penitentiary on page 3 of this newsletter?

Such a great place to shop for gifts, and with the holiday season upon us, there's no time like the present to check it out.

You can find the hobby shop online at <https://apps.oregon.gov/doc/StoreFront/>

There you can find so many incredible handmade items, the talent is just amazing!

There is a wide variety of items available for purchase, and all are made by the AIC and for sale to the public.

The talent is absolutely amazing! You can purchase jewelry and jewelry boxes, leather work, woodwork, metal art, horsehair items, wall art in the form of paintings, drawings and picture frames and so much more.

If you are tired of giving your hard-earned money to the big box stores, consider shopping at the Oregon State Penitentiary Hobby Shop. I am betting that you will be glad that you did.

RELEASE ORIENTATIONS

Release Orientations are co-facilitated by Community Corrections and Oregon CURE. Find out how you can help your recently or soon to be released loved one successfully re-enter our communities. Before attending, please phone one of the county coordinators' departments listed below to confirm the date, time and location.

Washington County Dates

Contact: Marcus Ford (503) 846-3494

Multnomah County Dates

Contact: (503) 988-3081 press "0" for TSU

Marion County Dates

Contact: Kayla Thompson
(503) 540-8017 (call to confirm)

INTAKE ORIENTATIONS

Intake Orientations are co-facilitated by Oregon Department of Corrections and Oregon CURE. Find out about Oregon's prison system, the intake process, phones, mail, and visiting requirements. You will receive a packet of informational brochures. There will be opportunities to ask questions and learn how you can get through your loved one's incarceration.

Portland Metro Dates

Location: Varies, please call Oregon CURE to confirm:
(503) 977-9979 or email oregoncure@gmail.com

Salem Dates

First Christian Church in Salem
6:00-8:30 PM on 3rd Thursdays Quarterly
Call (503) 378-0050 (call to confirm)

Support Groups

Oregon CURE support groups are intended for adult family members and friends only. Some topics of discussion may not be suitable for small children or pre-teens. Attend a support group and network with family members who have "been there".

REACH OUT BEFORE PLANNING TO ATTEND TO VERIFY DATE AND TIME PLEASE.

Portland East Side Support Group

3rd Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm
Please email Ray Fox for details at
RayAllenFox@gmail.com

Eugene Support Groups

1st Thursdays and 3rd Tuesdays: 7:00-9:00pm
Please call to confirm location.
(541)344-7612 Dave (541)342-6817 (Don)

Beaverton Support Group

1st Wednesdays: 7:00-8:30pm
Please call to confirm the location.
(503)977-9979
or email oregoncure@gmail.com

Salem Support Group

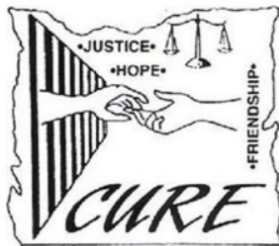
1st Saturdays: 9:30-11:30am
The Keizer Senior Center
930 Plymouth Drive NE
Keizer, OR 97303
(503)409-3329 (Wayne)

Oregon CURE
7805 SW 40th Ave.
PO Box 80193
Portland, OR 97280

ATTENTION:

*Your address label has
printed, your renewal-date,
below your name.
This will be your last
newsletter if your renewal
date has passed.*

**Renew today to
Remain informed!**



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The opinion and statements contained in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Oregon CURE.
Contributions of articles, letters to the editor, notices, etc. are welcome, but may be edited or rejected for space.
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Oregon CURE is an all-volunteer organization that is not a service organization. Do not send us any legal documents, we are not a legal service. We are not qualified to assist you with legal matters.

Your membership renewal date is on the address label of this newsletter. If your renewal date is expired, we ask that you please renew today to continue to receive this newsletter and to continue to support our organization.

You can also make a donation for someone you know to become a member.

Your support is important to our mission and your donation is tax deductible.

Send your membership tax-deductible donation to: Oregon CURE, PO Box 80193, Portland, OR 97280

Please fill out the member donation form below to receive our newsletter.

Adult in custody subscription donation: \$3 Individual Non-Incarcerated subscription donation: \$15

All Tax-Deductible Donations are greatly appreciated and can be made in any amount.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

(Optional):

Name of incarcerated loved one/ SID & facility: _____

Visit our website at: www.oregoncure.org