



# OREGON CURE

Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants

A Newsletter for Incarcerated People and their Families and Friends  
(503) 977-9979 | P.O. Box 80193, Portland, OR 97280

Spring 2022, Volume 68

## VISUAL ART SUBMISSIONS – THE JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

My name is Sofia Lesnewski and I work for the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC), a non-profit organization that provides critical services to individuals returning from incarceration. In conjunction with New Jersey's Commission on Reentry Services for Women and The Women's Project at NJRC, we are **seeking visual art submissions** for the Summer 2022 Edition of The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice.

The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice is a national publication of justice-involved persons' and advocates' art and writing. The first edition of The Journal is available [here](#) and the second edition is available [here](#).

We would be honored to feature visual art from members of your organization, both justice-involved and non-justice-involved, in the Summer 2022 Edition of The Journal. We humbly ask that interested persons submit to The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice **by June 30, 2022**.

### Guidelines for Submissions:

- The Summer 2022 edition of The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice will focus on 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? How can we end mass incarceration?
- We welcome visual art submissions from across the United States and beyond.
- You may submit as many pieces as you would like. We ask that you title your submission(s).
- You may submit using your name, your artist name, or without a name.
- If you are willing and able, we ask that you include a brief biography and photo. If you have been incarcerated and are comfortable sharing, we 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 another name. Please change or limit details that might identify persons mentioned in your work.

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 you. Please send your submission to [women.reentry@gmail.com](mailto:women.reentry@gmail.com) or, if the 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

### Visual Art Guidelines

- We accept art submissions in any medium (photography, drawing, printmaking, painting, etc.)
- Art sent via email should be submitted in PDF, JPG, or PNG format. We ask that photo submissions be of high resolution (at least 800px).

We would be most grateful if you would distribute the call for submissions for the Summer 2022 Edition of The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice to your networks. The flyer is included below.

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at [women.reentry@gmail.com](mailto: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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIKE OUR FACEBOOK!

Oregon CURE is excited to announce that we have a new Facebook page that is updated frequently. Please LIKE our page: [www.facebook.com/groups/oregoncure](http://www.facebook.com/groups/oregoncure).

### ZOOM SUPPORT GROUPS

We have been doing zoom support group meetings during the Covid 19 pandemic and have found that it is a way to reach folks that do not live in an area where the four groups are located for in-person meetings. As such we are going to continue the zoom meeting that has filled the Beaverton support group time slot and make it the statewide site. Contact us at [oregoncure@gmail.com](mailto:oregoncure@gmail.com) or [admin@oregoncure](mailto:admin@oregoncure) if you are interested in joining the zoom meeting which will be held on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7 p.m. It will last roughly 90 minutes as the in-person meetings were.

The Eugene, Salem, and NE Portland groups will not be changed so if they are your favorites continue to support and attend them.

Not to fear, if we have enough interest for an in-person meeting in Beaverton we will start that group up again when we find a facility that has become available for such meetings.

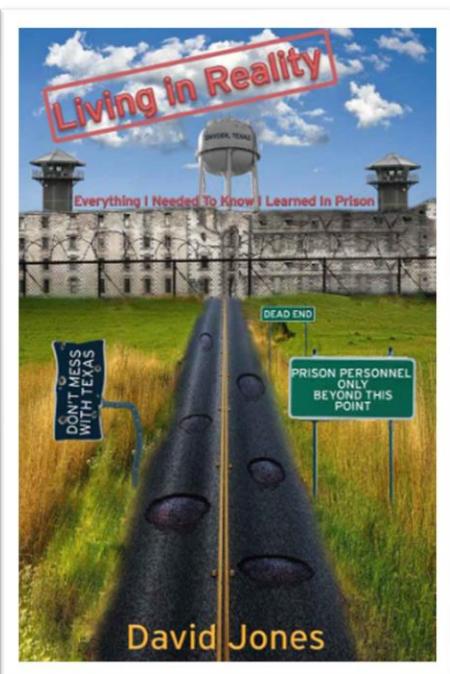
### PHONE SYSTEMS UPDATE

Also, after many years we are dropping our phone line (503) 977-9979 as the call volume has dropped off dramatically and the cost has gone up. You can still reach us by phone at 503 844-9145 which we are sharing with another like-minded organization. Someone will respond to a phone call if you would prefer to make contact that way as opposed to email. Calls will be returned as time permits from one of our volunteers.

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## LIVING IN REALITY: EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN PRISON

### A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR, DAVID W. JONES:



I use my life story to expose prison, mass incarceration, the anti-rehabilitation environment that I am forced to live in, and the fact that I will have to go back to the civil commitment facility upon release, I also demonstrate the plain stupidity of the ex post facto laws such as civil commitment and SO registry.

There is not any other book out there that is as transparent and illustrates the need to not only reform the prisons, but to abolish the ex post facto laws that cause our prisons to be filled beyond capacity.

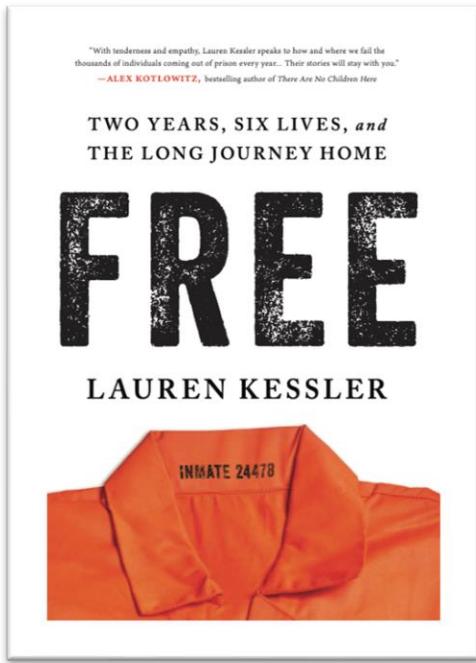
These laws had been displayed to the public as a need and it does nothing to show just how devastating they are to everyone, plus the taxpayers.

I believe that you and me are fighting the same fight, and I know that my book, "Living in reality: Everything I needed to know I learned in prison" will help bring these issues to light from my very subject view. "Living in Reality" will most certainly bring understanding and healing. It is a book for everyone not just those of us in it.

## AVAILABLE NOW: FREE by Lauren Kessler

"In this **empathetic and visceral account**, journalist Kessler documents the achievements and setbacks of six formerly incarcerated people... **This powerful argument in favor of a better support system for those who have served their time rings true.**" – *Publishers Weekly*

**Piercing, poignant... Free is a sobering necessary mirror.** What does this system say about us? Where will we go from here, and how – and most urgently, when? – *Shelf Awareness*



When I started going into OSP to run a writers' group, I was astonished at the paucity of decent books in the prison's library. Many, not all, prisons have libraries, but they are—as you might imagine—both underfunded and understaffed. A low priority. In some places they are considered a security risk. Yet libraries are wondrous spaces. And books open worlds to those closed off from the world. Books can be both a gateway to learning and an escape hatch from an environment so stressful, so toxic that few of us on the outside can (or would want to) imagine it.

The writers' group I started inside took hold. The men were eager to write, eager to learn. But to be a writer one must read good writing, yes? And there was too little of it in the library. I began, book by book, bringing in quality works about the art and craft of writing along with dozens and dozens of narrative nonfiction books culled from my own library and used bookstores. I had the extraordinary support of a prison staffer. Otherwise, this never would have happened. The prison's furniture shop created a tall wooden cabinet to house the "Writers' Collection." One of the men volunteered to be the lending librarian. We were all over-the-top proud about this.

Fast-forward three years—although there was nothing fast about the passage of these past three years. During that time, I focused my attention, as a writer and a researcher, as a mentor, on what awaits the 600,000 men and women who leave prison every year, how they navigate the obstacle-strewn path back to their communities, their families, their lives. Six people (and their families) let me into their post-incarcerated life. Their honesty, their transparency, their willingness to share their stories made my new book possible. The title is *Free: Two Years, Six Lives, and the Long Journey Home*.

The book was just released April 19. And here's something wonderful—and the reason I began with my thoughts about prison libraries. The motto of Sourcebooks (my publisher and the largest woman-owned publisher in North America) is "books change lives." So many mottos out there, so much branding, all those lawn signs and t-shirts proclaiming good intentions. But so few actually walk the talk. When an organization does that, follows through on good intentions, it is inspiring.

And so I am delighted to tell you that my publisher has partnered with the nonprofit Chicago Books to Women in Prison, and for every copy of *Free* sold from now until May 27, Sourcebooks will donate a book from their catalog to this group to be distributed for free to libraries in women's prisons and federal penitentiaries across the country.

Because books, indeed, change lives. And libraries matter. And so does walking the talk. To be part of this **#buyabookchangealife** campaign, It doesn't matter where you purchase *Free*. (But only print copies "count.")

And I am beyond delighted to tell you that three of the men in the original writers' group are now, after so many years, after so much internal work, after so much soul-searching, after the extraordinary support of families, part of our communities. Two of these stories are part of *Free*.

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2022 legislative session ended on Friday, March 4, 2022. This short session lasted only one month. There were several criminal justice reform bills, and they faced an uphill battle against misleading attacks on reforms as being “soft on crime” or “pro-criminal.” Here is a list of the bills we were following and their outcomes:

## PASSED

**HB 4008/4131:** Despite vigorous public opposition, the legislature did pass HB 4008/4131, which loosens restrictions around police use of tear gas.

**SB 1510:** This requires police officers to inform a stopped person of the right to refuse consent to search; prohibits traffic stops based on lighting violations (one brake light out, one taillight out, etc.); modifies conditions of probation; and provides funding for the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program.

**HB 4075:** This modifies procedures for requesting and ordering restitution and reclassifies victims from Level 2 to Level 1 for priority of payments.

**SB 1543** (Universal Representation): This improves access to justice and advances immigrant rights.

**SB1584: Compensation for Exonerees** - The Oregon Justice for Exonerees Act, SB 1584 received incredible bipartisan support and passed without receiving a single “no” vote throughout the legislative process. SB 1584 will compensate exonerees for the period they were wrongfully incarcerated and/or on supervision. Oregon will provide financial compensation to people who have been wrongfully convicted and imprisoned at a rate of \$65,000 per year of imprisonment and \$25,000 per year spent wrongfully on parole, probation, and/or the sex offender registry. A court will decide who is eligible to receive compensation and will be able to order additional services such as housing assistance, counseling, or healthcare. The law will seal records associated with the conviction and provide a certificate of innocence from the state, allowing exonerees to clear their names.

**HB 4144:** A provision in this bill that would have made harassment of an election worker a Class C felony. The bill passed but amended the penalty to a Class A misdemeanor.

## DID NOT PASS

**HB 4108:** This would have created an aggravating factor to assault 1, assault 2, attempted murder, and attempted aggravated murder when a person causes permanent physical injury and required the court to impose a 300-month sentence.

**HB 4135:** This attempted to overturn Hubbell and would have provided that “attempted transfer” includes possession of controlled substance with intent to transfer to another person.

**HB 4142:** This would have expanded the crime of assault in the third degree to include causing physical injury to a hospital worker.

**SB 1511** (Ramos Retroactivity): This would have created a process by which a person convicted or found guilty except for insanity as a result of nonunanimous jury verdict could file a petition for post-conviction relief under certain circumstances.

**SB 1512:** This would have reduced barriers to professional licensing based on criminal history.

**SB1568: Compassionate Release** - This bill proposed a complete overhaul of the compassionate release process. This bill was not advanced out of the budget committee, but there are plans to reintroduce this in the 2023 legislative session.

**HB 4147: Restoration of Voting Rights** - This bill would have restored voting rights to currently incarcerated individuals in Oregon Department of Corrections custody. There was no public hearing and therefore no advancing the bill out of committee.

**What is Senate Bill 819?** SB 819 is an Oregon law that allows for resentencing of a person who was sentenced to any felony other than aggravated murder when the district attorney and the sentencing court finds that the sentence no longer advances the interests of justice.

**What relief is available under SB819?** SB 819 authorizes a wide range of relief for convictions or sentences. A court may:

- Dismiss the charges against you in their entirety, vacating your conviction and releasing you from prison, supervision, and/or other reporting requirements and collateral consequences of your conviction.
- Dismiss the charges against you and recharge you with a new alternative offense, and resentence you following a plea to that new, alternative offense. This could result in either a lesser sentence or your release from prison if you have already served the new sentence in full.
- Vacate previous convictions that may have enhanced your sentence and resentence you without the previous convictions. This could result in either a lesser sentence or your release from prison if you have already served the new sentence in full.
- Maintain your existing conviction but resentence you to a shorter sentence allowed under the law. This could result in either a lesser sentence or your release from prison if you have already served the new sentence in full.

# **CAN PEOPLE ON PROBATION VOTE IN OREGON?**

## **Partnership for Safety and Justice**

Voting rights and rules can sometimes feel complicated.

We have answers to some common questions about voting in Oregon. Across Oregon, some important election outcomes will be decided in about three weeks. To cast a ballot, you must be registered to vote by April 26.

Can Oregonians vote while on probation?

What if I don't have a permanent address right now?

Do I need a stamp to mail my ballot?

**Do I need a stamp to vote? A ballot box? Or to leave my home?** Nope! Your ballot will arrive to you by mail about three weeks before Election Day. Your ballot will have a prepaid postage stamp on it, so you can mail your ballot directly from your home.

As of 2022, your ballot will be counted as long as it's postmarked on or before Election Day! Worried about mail carrier pick-up times at your local mailbox on Election Day? Here's a link to finding ballot boxes near you.

**I'm currently on probation. Can I still vote?** You can! Any US citizen residing in Oregon who is at least 18 years old by May 17 is generally free to cast a ballot. This includes people who are in jail on a misdemeanor conviction, on post-prison supervision or parole, or on probation. If you were recently released from prison, you can re-register to vote here. People who cannot cast ballots include folks currently in prison for a felony conviction, sentenced to prison but not yet incarcerated, on work release, or court-mandated to live in a halfway house.

**I feel unsafe and don't want to disclose my home address. Can I still vote?** Absolutely! Just complete this application, and return it to your county election office. There's also more here about voter confidentiality available at this Secretary of State's webpage.

**I am experiencing homelessness and don't have a permanent address. Can I still get a ballot?** Yes! As long as you can describe your location, you can vote. You can even specify a different mailing address for your ballot.

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# **VOTING RIGHTS IN OREGON FOR PERSON CONVICTED OF A FELONY**

## **Partnership for Safety and Justice**

This information does not apply to persons convicted of misdemeanors, only to persons convicted of felonies.

The question is: **Is a person who has been convicted of a felony eligible to vote?**

The general rule is persons convicted of a felony, whether the defendant serves their term of incarceration in a state correctional facility or in a county jail, cannot vote while they are serving their term of incarceration for the felony. Once released from incarceration they must re-register to vote in order to restore their voting rights. All others in the criminal justice system may vote (such as pre-trial detainees, persons serving misdemeanor sentences in county jails, persons on parole or probation).

## **VOTING RIGHTS IN OREGON FOR PERSON CONVICTED OF A FELONY (continued)**

**Can a person convicted of a felony vote under each of these specific circumstances?**

**I have been convicted, but have not yet been sentenced.**

- YES, this person can vote until they are sentenced.
- 137.281(1): In any felony case, when the defendant is sentenced to a term of incarceration, the defendant is deprived of all rights...

**I'm serving my sentence for a felony conviction in the county jail, not in prison.**

- NO, this person cannot vote
- 137.281 (2) states that subsection (1) applies to any term of incarceration...it does not specify the type of facility the person convicted of a felony must be incarcerated in to lose their voting rights.
- 423.475 & 423.478 address persons convicted of a felony being held in county facilities if their term of incarceration is 12 months or less.

**I've been released from incarceration, but I am on parole.**

- YES, voting rights were restored when a person convicted of a felony is released from incarceration. However, the person does need to re-register to be eligible to vote.

**I've been released from incarceration but I am required to wear an ankle bracelet.**

- YES, the person is no longer incarcerated and therefore is on post-prison supervision.

**I am incarcerated for a felony in another state (not Oregon). Can I vote in Oregon elections?**

- NO, this person cannot vote
- 137.281(2) states that subsection (1) applies to any term of incarceration...it does not specify where the person convicted of a felony must be incarcerated in order to lose their voting rights.

**I have been convicted of a felony and am on a work release program – out on weekdays and incarcerated on weekends.**

- NO

**I am no longer in prison, but I am required to reside in a half way house.**

- NO

**Definition of incarceration...to put in prison. Imprisonment; confinement; custody; captivity; internment.**

**Comment:** the Oregon Constitution removes voting rights “unless otherwise provided by law”. ORS 137.275 is the “otherwise provided by law” and 137.281 provides the specifics such as not being deprived of voting rights until sentenced.

137.281(1) States privileges are not revoked until the person is sentenced to a term of incarceration. Since this section doesn't indicate a specific location of incarceration, it is assumed incarceration means in a county jail or in a state or federal prison. (2) States that subsection (1) refers to ANY term of incarceration. (3) Makes it clear that voting rights is one of the rights that may be deprived...although (1) makes it mandatory that their rights are deprived until release from incarceration or the conviction is set aside. (4) States that if the court orders a temporary stay of execution of sentence, in other words postpones incarceration temporarily, their rights are still deprived pursuant to (1). (5) Specifies that rights are deprived even if the person convicted of a felony is incarcerated in federal prison. (6) Gives the county clerk the right to cancel the person convicted of a felony's registration. (7) States the rights are restored automatically upon release from incarceration. (7) references ORS 10.030 which, though speaking to jury service, it also states that if the person convicted of a felony is on parole and is subsequently imprisoned for a parole violation, the person convicted of a felony will once again be deprived of voting rights.

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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 is \$3 and Individual Non-Incarcerated subscription donation is \$15. **All Tax-Deductible**

**Donations are greatly appreciated and can be made in any amount. Visit our website at [oregoncure.com](http://oregoncure.com).**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional)

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of incarcerated loved one / SID & facility: \_\_\_\_\_

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## PUBLICATION NOTICE

This newsletter is a publication of Oregon CURE. Oregon CURE is a 501 (c)(3) organization whose goal is to reduce crime through criminal justice reform. 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. Articles may be copied in their entirety with credit to the author or to the publication. 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.

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## 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 the 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](mailto:oregoncure@gmail.com)

### Salem Dates

First Christian Church in Salem  
6:60-8:30 PM on 3rd Thursdays Quarterly  
Call (503) 378-0050 (call to confirm)

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Oregon CURE  
7805 SW 40<sup>th</sup> 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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## **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”.

### **NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH ZOOM**

Reach out to the meeting contacts and ask if zoom meetings are available. Many of the support group meetings are held via Zoom and we recommend attending as many of those as you can. They can be attended from anywhere you may be; each meeting offers different insight and valuable information and you are not required to share anything if you wish to simply listen.

#### **Portland East Side Support Group**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm  
Please email Ray to confirm location.  
RayAllenFox@gmail.com

#### **Eugene Support Groups**

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

#### **Beaverton Support Group**

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

#### **Salem Support Group**

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