



A NEW TOOL TO WIN WITH JUSTICE: PROSECUTOR- INITIATED RESENTENCING

How a new law is allowing prosecutors to look back at unjust prison sentences and bring people home. And what you can do now that it's going national.



There are hundreds of thousands of people in prison serving unjust sentences who can be safely released.

Whether their sentences were too harsh, stemmed from outdated policies, or they have turned their lives around while on the inside, continued confinement is unjust.



No solution has called on the the one group of elected officials that puts people in prison — the same ones who could get them out: **prosecutors.**



Black and brown people are drastically overrepresented in U.S. prisons. Taxpayers are paying high costs to keep people incarcerated.



56%

of the U.S. prison population is Black or Latinx.

32%

of the U.S. population is Black or Latinx.

Black people are incarcerated at

5X

the rate of white people.

100K+

of taxpayer money is spent incarcerating just one person per year in the state of California.



A New Solution: Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing

In **2018**, a former prosecutor named Hillary Blout conceptualized and secured the passage of the first law in the country (AB 2942 in California) that would allow prosecutors to look back at unjust, excessive sentences. This is called **Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing (PIR)**.

Now, her organization, **For The People**, works to make sure the law is actually being implemented. Since its inception, the movement has been spreading across the country. Recently, new states have begun adopting Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing to bring people back to their communities and families.



Where is **Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing** Happening?

2018

The first PIR bill in the country passes into law.

Former prosecutor Hillary Blout wrote, conceptualized and secured the passage of AB 2942 with support from Assembly member Phil Ting and testimony from DA Jeff Rosen.



2019

Washington state's PIR bill passes into law, modeled after CA's

In 2019, Washington State becomes the second in the country to pass a PIR bill. Hillary Blout founds For The People to spread this movement widely.



2021

Seven states propose PIR bills. In Illinois and Oregon, they pass with For The People's support!

For The People partners with Cook County State's Attorney's Office in IL, and Multnomah County District Attorney's office in OR to help pass these bills.





ISAIAH LOVE'S STORY


In 2007, Kennard “Isaiah” Love was a young 22-year-old, struggling internally with issues from his youth. Not knowing how to channel his emotions, his struggles led him to committing robberies. He was convicted in Santa Clara County of multiple robberies and sentenced to 28 years in prison.

Being in a prison cell for hours on end, especially in solitary confinement, Isaiah was forced into introspection. With access to nothing but a pencil, paper, and books, all he could do was think about how he ended up in prison.

After more than a decade of reflection and rehabilitation, on December 11, 2020,

the Santa Clara District Attorney’s Office made a recommendation to the court that Isaiah be resentenced and released early from prison. The Court agreed. This was in large part thanks to collaboration with community leader Silicon Valley De-Bug. Two days before Christmas, Isaiah returned home to his loving parents.

Today, Isaiah, now 35 years old, holds multiple degrees, multiple job offers, and a healed relationship with his family. As of late, he has been pursuing computer programming and running on his high school track. His community is thrilled to have him back home.



Sentenced to
28 years. Home
After 13 years.





FOR THE PEOPLE

Steps for Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing



Step 1

Obtain your prison data and analyze the population. Identify criteria for resentencing.



Step 2

Review people's C-files and other rehabilitation documents. Contact the incarcerated person.



Step 3

Establish partnership with community-based organization, working with loved ones to develop reentry plans.



Step 4

Engage with the public defender's office and social workers.



Step 5

Prepare a complete work-up of the person's case.



Step 6

Engage victims, providing remorse and restorative justice opportunities.



Step 7

File motions then coordinate and attend court hearing.



Step 8

Coordinate with prison for release.



WELCOME PERSON BACK TO **OUR COMMUNITY!**

I'm a community member or loved one. What can I do?



1 2 3 4

Know your case's county.

Know the person's correct county of conviction. Then, [click here](#) to see which counties have a PIR policy or procedure in place right now.

See if your case is eligible for review.

Determine whether the person's case falls under the DA's criteria for resentencing. If it does, [click here](#) to find out more on preparing an enagement packet.

Get community support.

Find a community organization near you spearheading [participatory defense](#) or other forms of relief. If your loved one has an upcoming parole hearing, [click here](#).

Contact the Public Defender.

You can also contact the Public Defender's office to get more information on what support they can offer.

I'm a prosecutor. What can I do?



1 Look for legislation.

Find out if there is existing legislation in your state or county for Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing (CA, WA, IL, OR). Find out more by clicking [here](#).

2 Look for workarounds.

Some counties have found legal workarounds to implement Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing. You can learn more by reaching out to For The People.

3 Contact For The People.

For The People has supported the passage of legislation, and workarounds for PIR. Contact them at forthepeople.org to begin your journey in the PIR movement.

Additional resources on
Prosecutor-Initiated
Resentencing will be posted
to For The People's website
soon. To learn more go to
forthepeople.org.



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