

Name Eli Abner

Title Special Parolee

Organization Walter Brooks Project More HWH

Topic Not listed

Good evening I am currently finishing in ten months a seven year special parole sentence. My testimony involves conditions and rules imposed by halfway houses that work more as barriers than as a bridge to reintegrate an individual. My goal is to bring awareness of issues that affect the social growth of individuals trying to reintegrate themselves in a community. I am pleading to the ombudsman to review operations of these level one correctional facilities. To see if the procedures and rules implemented by halfway houses meet requirements and are objectively reasonable towards Reintegration and Rehabilitation of individuals.

A halfway house is a level one correctional facility the first step towards reintegration. It is required by the program that clients and offenders comply with the rules. My concern is that some rules are not objectively centered towards the purpose of the programs. Or reflect their work.

Example of a rule

If you have to stay working your Boss has to call the house to inform us.

A rule like this eventually causes friction between the employer and the employee. The boss has to stop working to talk to people he owes nothing to. Like if he was under supervision or been monitored by the halfway house.

I am the one who is supposed to be monitored. The house is supposed to call my workplace after I inform I am staying working to monitor. That part of the halfway house job description the monitoring of individuals released into the community is not done accordingly in most halfway houses. They make up rules to relieve themselves of responsibilities and duties. Rules that harm the reintegration of the individual at so many levels.

I am talking about rules that can potentially destroy positive meaningful relationships in the community rules that break interpersonal relationships affecting a Network and Opportunities the individual is creating for himself and looking at this from a social work perspective. We are living in some halfway houses under more harmful conditions than beneficial towards our reintegration through unreasonable and in some cases punitive rules. This is what I am living today and a very small part of my testimony. Speaking to you about Procedural discrepancies and irregularities that deter progress in halfway houses affecting the reintegration of individuals that have the potential to become productive members of society and good citizens.

My experience reflects that the mission statement of the Board of Pardons and Parole the strategic plan of the Department of Corrections and the principles of the Parole and Community Services Division lose meaning in some halfway houses. The operational instability in some halfway houses demonstrates negligence towards their ethical commitment to help individuals reintegrate into society.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to express my concern that affects me as well as many.

Sincerely Eli Abner