



Issue 1

THE LEGAL BEAGLE PRESS & SERVICE

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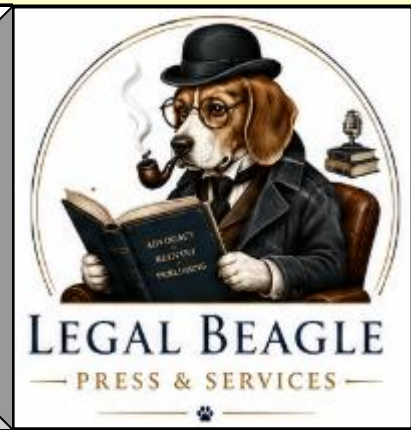


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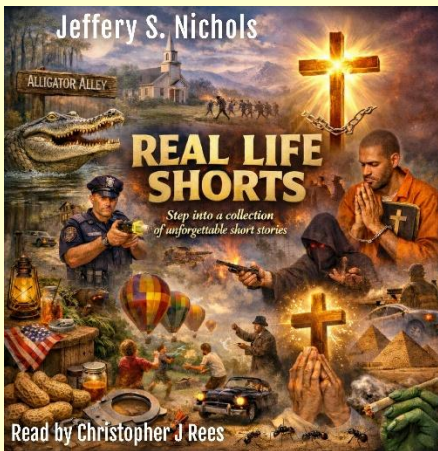
**THE LIGHT**

Advocacy, Knowledge & Inspiration

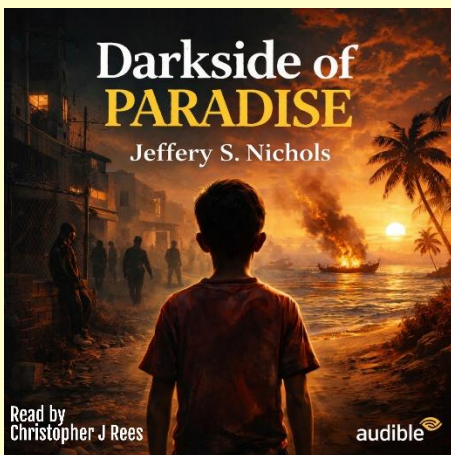
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## A Toolkit that every author should have:

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### **Canva**

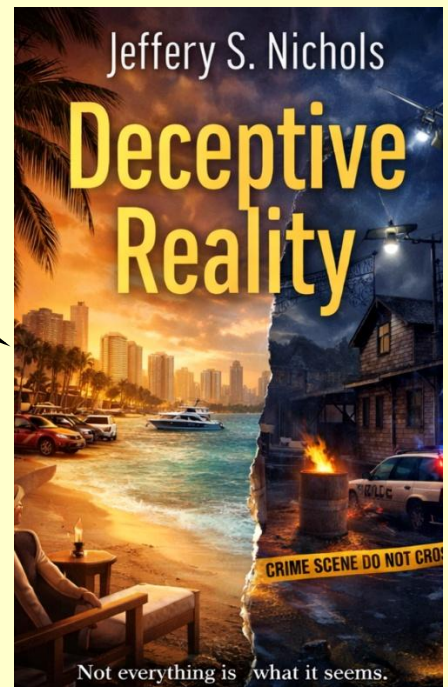
It is a creators dream site. You can create everything from videos, markups, websites, to doctor pictures. I used it to keep my chapter images consistent (size, color & tint). It is fun and provides easy to use tools to create professional artwork.

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## It's time to forgive and free older people from prison

By Antwann Lamont Johnson; the article appeared in the Prison Journal Project on September 2, 2023

As aging in prison becomes more commonplace, I've surveyed folks locked in Missouri prisons on their thought about the national problem.

I was specifically interested in two questions: what would getting released mean for you? And should incarcerated people who have shown remorse for their crimes, are older than 50, and are no longer a threat to the public have a second chance at freedom?

There are close to 2 million people incarcerated in the U.S., and more than 140,000 of those people, according to Prison Policy Initiative, are 55 and older.

States spend millions of dollars per year incarcerating aging people, who are far less likely to recommit a crime than younger people.

In Missouri, the state's 50-and-older population has nearly doubled since 2005, according to reporting from The Columbia Missourian. The state's compassionate release law allows for transfer of terminally ill prisoners to nursing homes, but there are few options to attain freedom for older people with long sentences. Legislators recently considered opening up parole to people 65 and older who had served 30 years or more of their life without parole sentence, but the bill died.

Robert Martin, who is in his mid-70s, said freeing older inmates would decrease costs for the state of Missouri and, more importantly, ease the pain and suffering that older inmates experience.

"There is no comparison between society's medical treatment and prison medical practices," said Martin. "[I believe that] many inmates who have died, or could have had their diagnosis treated sooner, would have lived if they had received adequate treatment in society. The lack of medical treatment continues to haunt elderly inmates because many of their complaints and cries are ignored."

In prison you have no free will. You must continually ask permission for simple things, such as going outside or taking a shower. Phone calls are recorded and you're constantly surveilled. The chance for a return home could alleviate some of the mental challenges of incarceration.

Many older inmates said they felt guilty for not being present when a loved one died. Those who had lost a child or parent took it the hardest. Prison is also a burden on those who don't have loved ones anymore, either because their family members all died or because they have simply given up on their wellbeing. regardless, everyone agrees that freedom is priceless. People want to go fishing, camping, and even grocery shopping again.

Anthony "Buck" Morris, 65, has prostate cancer. In a past life, he was an amateur boxer and coach. I, too. lost my dream of boxing due to incarceration. Even now, Morris said, he feels he could help right his wrongs by coaching amateur boxers. Some prisoners said a return home would give them a chance to learn about advancements in technology and other changes in culture by getting to observe ordinary people in society. But especially important was the prospect of bonding with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Check out more articles like this one at: <https://prisonjournalproject.org>

**Cutting edge Prison & Criminal Justice Research organizations:**

**Prison Policy Initiative**

The non-profit, non-partisan Initiative that produces research to expose the broader harm of mass criminalization and then sparks advocacy campaigns to create a more just society.

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**NARSOL**

*National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws*

We are a not-for-profit organization made up of volunteers who work together to bring change to the oppressive sexual offense laws in the United States.

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**Evidence based policies make us safer**

Evidence-based policies and programs can reliably reduce new sexual offenses and thus make our communities safer.



**If we really want to reduce recidivism, we must address the mental health issues facing prisoners and those reentering society.**

According to statistics compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative, 43% of people in state prisons have been diagnosed with a mental disorder. A much higher rate — 74% — report never having received mental health care while incarcerated.

The problems are not confined to an institution's walls. Many people upon release from prison confront lasting psychological consequences: anxiety, depression, impaired decision making, bipolar disorder and what some researchers have called "post-incarceration syndrome," a condition similar to PTSD.

I didn't realize the detrimental impact on my mental health that my seventeen-year prison sentence had on me until I was released. I now suffer from PTSD and PICS. I have trouble sleeping, I wake up frequently from night terrors, I get nervous in crowds, I have trouble concentrating, and I'm in a constant state of paranoia. And I'm one of the lucky ones. Even though I have a lonely existence; I do have an apartment, my own business, and necessities.

The unlucky ones are the many others who are suffering with mental health issues that are jobless, homeless, and hopeless. Their future is prison, which has taken the place of mental institutions, or death!!!

## Father William Casey Convicted of Crimes that supposedly happened over 40-years ago.

I conducted some legal research for Father Casey while we were both at Bledsoe County Correctional Complex. His case was interesting because: the State clearly violated the law governing the statute of limitations for such in place at the time of the alleged crimes, the State seems to have a double standard concerning when a trial is fair, and instead of using the evidence and trial procedures in place at the time of the crime they used the ones in place at the time of the trial which favored the State and prejudiced the outcome.

The facts of the case are pretty straight forward: The victim testified that his then priest Father William Casey molested him more than 50 times over a period of five years (1975-1980) when he was an altar boy at St. Dominic's Catholic Church in Kingsport. The victim said the alleged abuse began when he was 10 years old, and continued until he was 15. Father Casey argued that these charges were not true. The result of the 2011 trial was, Father Casey was convicted and is currently serving a minimum sentence of 35 years behind bars.

1st, Statute of Limitations: the crimes allegedly took place in the late 1970s, which was almost 40-years before Father Casey was charged with committing these crimes. Now, Tennessee's law governing the statute of limitation at that time was very concise, it gave the prosecution 15-years to bring charges for such. Thus, according to Tennessee's own law the statute of limitation had expired, so they could not prosecute him for said crimes. However, Tennessee has a unique way of applying or twisting laws; certain laws are only enforceable when they favor the State.

2nd, the State seems to have a Double Standard when it comes to how much time can lapse before a trial becomes unfair. It's obvious over time memory fades,

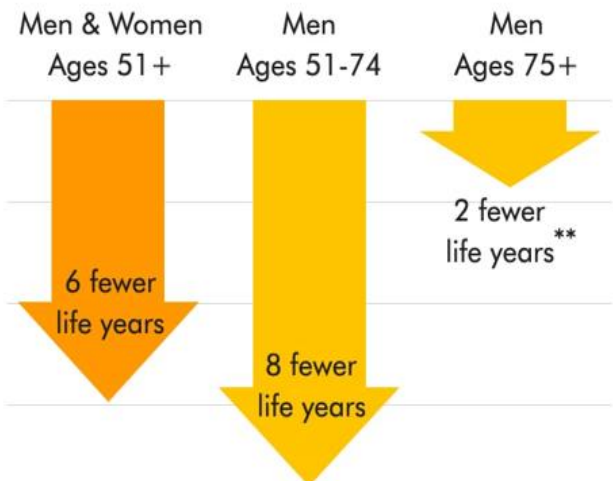
## Supreme Court rules innocence doesn't really matter!!!

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Shinn v. Ramirez and Jones*, closed the federal courthouse doors to evidence of ineffective assistance of trial counsel — attorney errors that prevented juries from hearing evidence of innocence — that was not first presented to the state courts due to the incompetency of state post-conviction counsel.

In other words, if a defendant doesn't present a claim of innocence in post-conviction appeals proceedings it will be waived forever leaving some innocent people locked in prison for crimes they did not commit. Where is the justice in that!!!

### Past incarceration is linked to shorter life spans for older adults

Change in predicted years of life associated with  
any history of incarceration for adults over 50\*



\*Controlling for age, sex and race/ethnicity.

\*\*Not statistically significant.

Source: Gutierrez, C., et al. (2026). The long arm of incarceration. *American Journal of Public Health*.

**Father William Casey – continued:**

witnesses move or die, evidence disappears, court rules change, and conducting a fair trial becomes impossible. According to Tennessee's prior Attorney General, who opposed extending the 1-year statute of limitation for a defendant to challenge a conviction when newly discovered evidence of actual innocence is discovered, believed this time frame for such to be very short. In general, the State felt that to allow more than 1-year to challenge a conviction would create a situation that was unfair to the State and could produce inaccurate outcomes. Yet, when the shoes are on the other foot, like in this case the State seems to believe that Father Casey could have a fair trial sum 40 years after the alleged crime. That seems like a Double Standard!

3rd, instead of the State using the procedures and evidence rules in place at the time of the crime, which would have been more favorable to Father Casey they used the ones in place at the time of the trial, which favored the State. This definitely, prejudiced Father Casey's case, and increased the chances of the State securing a favorable outcome.

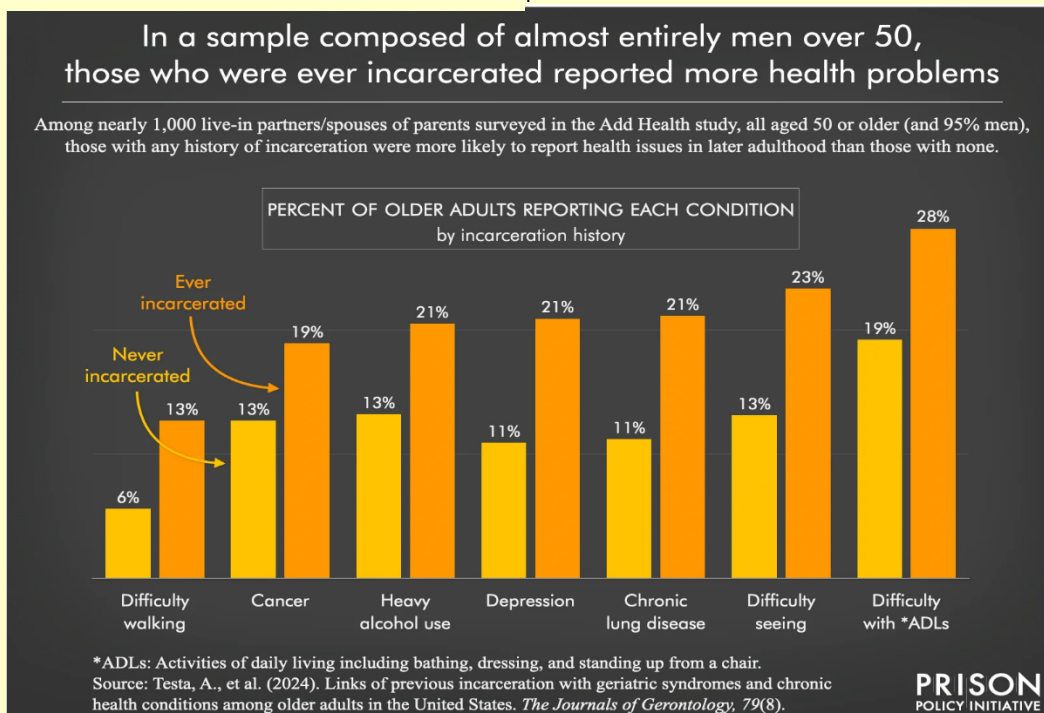
Thus, I can't tell you if Father Casey did this or not. However, the one thing that is certain is that Father Casey did not get a fair trial and the State did not follow their own laws.

**Incarceration is tied to serious health problems in later adulthood**

An earlier study authored by a team of academic researchers including Professor Gutierrez — published in the Journal of Gerontology in 2024 — sheds more light on the health of formerly incarcerated people in their older age, with particular focus on chronic conditions that undoubtedly contribute to their shortened life expectancy. Previous research has shown that incarceration takes a toll on both individual health and public health, but this study provides evidence that incarceration is associated with poor health outcomes specifically in later life. The researchers find that any past incarceration is associated with impairments of mobility, vision, and activities of daily living, as well as diagnoses of cancer, depression, and chronic lung disease among people 50 and older in the U.S.

In addition, formerly incarcerated older adults were more likely to be unmarried, unemployed, and have a disability than those never incarcerated.

Author **Prison Policy Initiative**: [Click here for whole article](#)



# PUNISHMENT WITHOUT TRIAL



WHY PLEA BARGAINING  
IS A BAD DEAL

CARISSA BYRNE HESSICK



Author: **Carissa Byrne Hessick**

## **Punishment without Trial**

A provocative and timely exploration of how plea bargaining prevents true criminal justice reform and how we can fix it

When Americans think of the criminal justice system, the image that comes to mind is a trial—a standard court-room scene with a defendant, attorneys, a judge, and most important, a jury. It's a fair assumption. The right to a trial by jury is enshrined in both the body of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It's supposed to be the foundation that undergirds our entire justice system.

But in *Punishment Without Trial: Why Plea Bargaining Is a Bad Deal*, University of North Carolina law professor Carissa Byrne Hessick shows that the popular conception of a jury trial couldn't be further from reality. That bed-rock constitutional right has all but disappeared thanks to the unstoppable march of plea bargaining, which began to take hold during Prohibition and has skyrocketed since 1971, when it was affirmed as constitutional by the Supreme Court.

Nearly every aspect of our criminal justice system encourages defendants—whether they're innocent or guilty—to take a plea deal. *Punishment Without Trial* showcases how plea bargaining has undermined justice at every turn and across socioeconomic and racial divides. It forces the hand of lawyers, judges, and defendants, turning our legal system into a ruthlessly efficient mass incarceration machine that is dogging our jails and punishing citizens because it's the path of least resistance. Professor Hessick makes the case against plea bargaining as she illustrates how it has damaged our justice system while presenting an innovative set of reforms for how we can fix it.

An impassioned, urgent argument about the future of criminal justice reform, *Punishment Without Trial* will change the way you view the criminal justice system.

[Click Here to see Book on Amazon](#)

**Plea Bargains: Deceptive, non-binding, and frequently Coerced.**

Only Defendants are required to abide by the agreed upon elements of a Plea Agreement. The state and courts frequently allow additional punitive consequences to added afterwards. For example,

<p><b>Plea Sentencing Transcript &amp; Original Judgement Sheets show:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* I was sentenced to 17 years at 100% in prison</li> <li>* Afterwards, I would be place on the Sex Offender Registry, which at that time consisted of provide certain info and a picture once a year.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Afterwards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* I now have to register 4 times a year, and there are at least 97 additional restrictions that drastically limit where I can reside, work, and be.</li> <li>* The state/court added the additional punitive sentence of Community Supervision for Life to my prison sentence without ever re-sentencing me to such. It focuses on restricting relationships and where I can go (like I can't leave the county without prior approval).</li> <li>* I had to wear a GPS ankle monitor for 3 years and I'm in what they call Sex Offender Treatment for Life, which is actually another level of management &amp; Fees</li> </ul>
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**Reentry Resources:**

**Employment**

Organization	Description	Website
<b>Honest Jobs</b>	They provide FREE listings of employment opportunities for those with a criminal record and reentry resources for every zip-code in the U.S.	<a href="https://honestjobs.com/for-job-seekers">https://honestjobs.com/for-job-seekers</a>
<b>Fair shakes Reentry Resource Center</b>	Is one of the largest online Reentry resource providers in the U.S. They list all the American Job Centers for each state, help you start your own business, and supply resources for everything you need!	<a href="http://www.fairshake.net/">http://www.fairshake.net/</a>
<b>Glassdoor</b>	Glassdoor is one of the fastest growing online job searches and recruiting sites. It holds a growing database of millions of company reviews, CEO approval ratings, salary reports, interview reviews and questions, benefits reviews, office photos and more.	<a href="https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm">https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm</a>
<b>Relaunch Pad</b>	Check out our search tool featuring over 1,000 companies we've personally contacted about their hiring policies for people with criminal records.	<a href="https://therelaunchpad.com">https://therelaunchpad.com</a>

<b>Way Up</b>	We feel strongly that opportunity belongs to all, and that an individual should never be limited by their economic status, race, sexual orientation, gender, who you know, where you went to school, or where you're from.	<a href="https://www.wayup.com">https://www.wayup.com</a>
<b>Idealist</b>	Jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities.	<a href="https://www.idealist.org/en">https://www.idealist.org/en</a>
<b>Veterans Reemployment</b>	It's a one-stop website for employment, training, and financial help after military service.	<a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/ReEmployment/Veterans%20A0">https://www.careeronestop.org/ReEmployment/Veterans%20A0</a>
<b>Jobs for Felons Hub</b>	Focus on jobs for Felons	<a href="https://www.felonyrecordhub.com/start-here/">https://www.felonyrecordhub.com/start-here/</a>
<b>America's Service Locator</b>	Connects individuals to employment and training opportunities available at local American Job Centers.	<a href="https://www.servicelocator.org">https://www.servicelocator.org</a>
<b>Career One-Stop License Finder</b>	Find information about licenses required for hundreds of different occupations.	<a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/toolkit.aspx">https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/toolkit.aspx</a>

## Addiction Treatment

Organization	Description	Website
<b>Addiction &amp; Homelessness</b>	A Resource Guide for Displaced People Battling Substance Use Disorder	<a href="https://drugrehabus.org/addiction-and-homelessness/">https://drugrehabus.org/addiction-and-homelessness/</a>
<b>Resource for Alcohol Addiction</b>	This is a Community of Outreach Specialist that provides vital information to help those struggling with an addiction to alcohol.	<a href="https://www.alcoholhelp.com/">https://www.alcoholhelp.com/</a>
<b>Addiction Treatment Lifeline</b>	Chris Carberg - Founder & Grateful Recovering Addict. I'm also one of the founders of the new website, AddictionGuide.com. Addiction Guide is one of the only educational websites founded by a recovering addict, an addict's spouse, and a board-certified addiction doctor.	<a href="https://www.addictionhelp.com/">https://www.addictionhelp.com/</a>
<b>Rehab Spot</b>	Nationwide Drug & Alcohol Treatment	<a href="https://www.rehabspot.com/">https://www.rehabspot.com/</a>
<b>Free Treatment Centers</b>	Just click on your state to find free, affordable, discounted, low costs, or sliding scale residential Drugs &/or Alcohol clinics near you.	<a href="https://www.freetreatmentcenters.com/">https://www.freetreatmentcenters.com/</a>
<b>Social Media Victims Law Center</b>	This organization focuses on the damaging effects social media can have on some of our lives.	<a href="http://www.socialmediavictims.org">www.socialmediavictims.org</a>
<b>Addiction</b>	They provide an easy-to-use comprehensive	<a href="https://www.addictioncenter.com/">https://www.addictioncenter.com/</a>

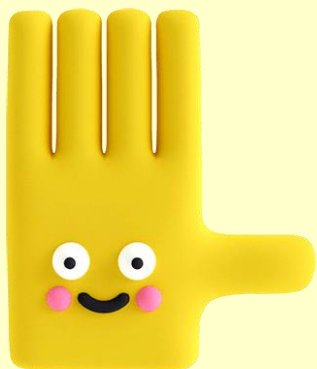
<b>Center</b>	listing of rehabilitation centers for every state, as well as information on the different types of treatment that are available.	
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## Housing

Organization	Description	Website
<b>Public Housing</b>	Provides Public Housing properties, and many other types of housing deals for every city in each state.	<a href="https://www.publichousing.com/">https://www.publichousing.com/</a>
<b>Homeless Shelter Directory</b>	Provides a list of food pantries, and soup kitchens.	<a href="https://www.homelessshelterdirectory.org/foodbanks/index.html%C2%A0">https://www.homelessshelterdirectory.org/foodbanks/index.html%C2%A0</a>
<b>Rental Assistance</b>	Enter your zip-code and it provides a listing that includes federally subsidized Rental Assistance Programs and/or emergency financial assistance for low-income people in need.	<a href="https://www.rentassistance.us/">https://www.rentassistance.us/</a>

## Physical, Mental & Dental Healthcare

Organization	Description	Website
<b>Free Clinics</b>	Enter your zip code and find free or reduced costs medical clinics for uninsured and low income individuals near you. Many clinics are operated under a sliding scale schedule. This means that costs to patients are calculated based on income.	<a href="https://www.freeclinics.com/">https://www.freeclinics.com/</a>
<b>Health coverage for self-employed</b>	If you're self-employed, you can use the individual Health Insurance Marketplace® to enroll in flexible, high-quality health coverage that works well for people who run their own businesses.	<a href="https://www.healthcare.gov/self-employed/">https://www.healthcare.gov/self-employed/</a>
<b>Free Dental care</b>	Just click on your state to find Free Dental Clinics, Low-Cost Affordable Dental Clinics, and Non-Profit Dental Clinics, near you.	<a href="https://www.freedentalcare.us/">https://www.freedentalcare.us/</a>



**The End!**  
**Goodbye, I'll see you**