



**Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders**  
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Boston, MA 02108  
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**Website:** [www.glad.org](http://www.glad.org)

## **Resources for Prisoners and Ex-Offenders in New England**

*Updated: February 2012*

*Please help us keep this list of resources updated. Let us know if you discover incorrect information, or new things we should add. Send updates to [bbell@glad.org](mailto:bbell@glad.org)*

### **CONNECTICUT**

#### **ACLU of Connecticut**

32 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 247-9823

The ACLU is not a resource for handling individual convictions or problems, unless related to conditions of confinement. The ACLU operates a number of specific projects, including the *AIDS Education Project* of the *National Prison Project*, and the *Gay and Lesbian Rights Project* of the ACLU. See listing under National Resources for more information.

#### **Community Partners in Action**

110 Bartholomew Ave., #4020, Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 566-2030

This organization provides transitional case management for prisoners and ex-inmates. Provides discharge planning through direct care, helping clients set up medical appointments, and through referrals for employment, substance abuse, family unification and HIV/AIDS programs. Prisoners should be referred to the program through their HIV contact nurse.

#### **Community Renewal Team, Inc.**

555 Windsor St., Hartford, CT 06120  
(860) 560-5471

Offers a number of re-entry programs.

#### **Connecticut Correctional Ombudsman**

110 Bartholomew Ave., #4010, Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 951-8867 Collect calls accepted

Inmates in CT facilities should write to the Ombudsman with any complaints about conditions of confinement. The Ombudsman will then investigate such complaints from inmates. Inmates will usually have contact with the Ombudsman through a counselor.

**Families in Crisis, Inc.**

Hartford (Headquarters): 30 Arbor St., North Wing, Hartford, CT 06106; (860) 236-3593

Waterbury: 232 N. Elm St., Waterbury, CT 06702; (203) 573-8656

New Haven: 48 Howe St., New Haven, CT 06511; (203) 498-7790

Families in Crisis provides a range of counseling and support services to inmates and their families: individual and family counseling, crisis intervention, case management, court outreach, transportation, childcare, parent education groups, support groups, training programs, after-school program for children of incarcerated parents. No collect calls at any office.

**Family ReEntry**

9 Mott Ave., Suite 104, Norwalk, CT 06850

(203) 838-0496

Provides counseling and therapy services, parent education, information, referrals, mentoring and gifts for children, offenders and their families across a variety of sites (e.g. adult probation, day incarceration centers, alternative to incarceration centers, residential substance abuse treatment facilities, pre-release prison programs).

**Inmates' Legal Assistance Program, Law Offices of Sydney T. Schulman**

78 Oak St., P.O. Box 260237, Hartford, CT 06126-0237

(860) 246-1118

LAP provides assistance only in civil matters, such as divorce, child custody or personal injury. Assistance does not include representation. LAP helps inmates identify, articulate, and research legal claims. Provides advice and assistance in the preparation of legal documentation for meritorious claims. Assistance for CT inmates only.

**Isaiah 61:1, Inc.**

405 Clinton Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605

(203) 368-6116

Isaiah 61:1 is a halfway house with work release program to help inmates back into the community, including spiritual and individual counseling groups, life skills training, anger management, HIV/AIDS education and counseling, AA/NA/AL anon, mandatory family therapy and referrals to employment services. Programs last 6-9 months for women, 3-4 months for men. Inmates apply to house through counselor.

**Jerome N. Frank Legal Services**

Yale Law School, Box 401-A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

These are student-run clinics with limited resources provided to CT federal and state prisoners, including parole-related litigation, post-conviction, habeas corpus, prison conditions, direct referrals. Damage suits can be handled on a contingency fee basis, only if client is indigent and unable to get a local law firm to take the case. Publishes *Connecticut Prisoners' Rights*, which includes a guide to resources for prisoners and ex-offenders, \$4 if able to pay. Because this program is university-affiliated, it may not be staffed during transitional periods in the academic schedule.

**New Haven Reentry Initiative**

Office of the Mayor, City of New Haven, 165 Church Street, Second Floor, New Haven, CT 06510

(203) 946-7658

Works with community partners, state agencies and other reentry organizations to support the reintegration of formerly incarcerated residents into the New Haven community. Publishes a New Haven Reentry Resource Guide, which provides information about reentry resources for individuals returning from incarceration and their families. Resources include Obtaining a Birth Certificate, Basic Needs (Benefits, Clothing, Food, and Housing), and Additional Reentry Resources

(Advocacy and Support Groups, Domestic Violence, Education, Employment, Family Support and Child Support, Legal Assistance and Law Related, Substance Abuse, Youth Services and more).

**People Empowering People**

UConn Cooperative Extension Service, Box 70, Haddam, CT 06438  
(860) 345-4511

Provides life skills and leadership training, mentoring, and support to families and friends of offenders.

**Perception Programs, Inc.**

P.O. Box 407, 54 North St., Willimantic, CT 06226  
(860) 450-7122 No collect calls

Perception Programs serves substance abusers, offenders, and people living with HIV in northeastern Connecticut. Programs include residential work release and treatment programs for men and women, short-term residential substance abuse treatment for male prisoners in transition back to community life (including men with dual substance abuse and mental health diagnoses), outpatient substance abuse treatment, and residential treatment and education programs that act as alternatives to incarceration for adults and adolescents. Program fees may apply.

**University of Connecticut Criminal Clinic**

University of CT School of Law, 65 Elizabeth St., Hartford, CT 06105  
(860) 570-5165

The Clinic is primarily geared toward defending individuals against criminal charges. Prisoners can also request assistance with habeas corpus or other matters involving criminal convictions, but assistance is subject to limited resources. Because this program is university-affiliated, it may not be staffed during transitional periods in the academic schedule.

<b><u>MAINE</u></b>
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**Coastal AIDS Network—Prison Project**

9 Field St., Suite 434, Belfast, ME 04915  
Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915  
(207) 338-6330 Collect calls accepted.

HIV prevention classes, case management, and peer education programs to the Maine State Prison Complex, particularly Waldo, Knox and Lincoln county jails and Bolduc Correctional Facility. Also provides education, counseling, and referrals to families of MSP inmates. Their community work includes prevention education and testing, particularly for men who have sex with men.

**Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic**

246 Deering Ave., University of Maine Law School, Portland, ME 04102  
(207) 780-4370 Collect calls accepted.

The Clinic provides free legal representation to financially eligible people in York, Cumberland, Androscoggin, and Sagadahoc counties. Clients are represented by seniors in law school who are specially licensed by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and the District Court. The clinic handles most civil, criminal, and family law matters, but very rarely takes

appellate cases. Because this program is university-affiliated, it may not be staffed during transitional periods in the academic schedule.

**Maine Civil Liberties Union**

401 Cumberland Ave., Suite 105, Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 774-5444

The ACLU is not a resource for handling individual convictions or problems, unless related to conditions of confinement. The ACLU operates a number of specific projects, including the *AIDS Education Project* of the *National Prison Project*, and the *Gay and Lesbian Rights Project* of the ACLU. See listing under National Resources for more information.

**Maine Correctional Center**

17 Mallison Falls Road, Windham, ME 04062  
(207) 893-7000

Provides parenting classes, support groups, and monthly children's workshops, visits in a day care setting.

<b><u>MASSACHUSETTS</u></b>
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**General Advocacy & Legal Services**

**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Massachusetts**

*Boston*  
211 Congress St., Third Floor, Boston, MA 02110 (617) 482-3170  
*Western MA*  
39 Main St., Northampton, MA 01060 (413) 584-7331  
*Worcester County*  
340 Main St. Rm. 717, Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 752-5363

The ACLU is not a resource for handling individual convictions or problems, unless related to conditions of confinement. The ACLU operates a number of specific projects, including the *AIDS Education Project* of the *National Prison Project*, and the *Gay and Lesbian Rights Project* of the ACLU. See listing under National Resources for more information.

**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)—Criminal Justice Program**

2161 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140  
(617) 661-6130 Collect calls accepted.

The AFSC Criminal Justice Program provides prisoner referrals and resources for legal help available to prisoners and ex-offenders. Provides assistance to prisoner organizations in prison and community organizations working on prison issues. AFSC's quarterly newsletter, *Outlook on Justice*, is available to prisoners for \$2 per year.

**Boston College Immigration & Asylum Project**

885 Centre St., Newton, MA 02159

The BCIAP is a resource for people convicted of crimes and facing deportation proceedings as a result. A full-time attorney works with students from BC Law School to advise, counsel, and represent immigrants who are incarcerated

either in criminal facilities or in BCIS detention and have no money for legal fees. Because this program is university-affiliated, it may not be staffed during transitional periods in the academic schedule.

**Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project**

108 Austin Hall, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 495-3127 Collect calls accepted.

The Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project provides direct in-person service to indigent inmates, advocates for prisoners charged with violating prison regulations, represents prisoners at the Parole Board and disciplinary hearings, provides research assistance for domestic post-conviction, reviews civil rights arguments, and offers other services to prisoners. Because this program is university-affiliated, it may not be staffed during transitional periods in the academic schedule.

**Prisoner's Legal Services (PLS)**

10 Winthrop Square, Boston, MA 02110  
(617) 482-4124 Collect calls accepted or (800) 882-1413.

PLS (formerly MCLS) provides legal services to prisoners and their families for issues arising out of incarceration. They offer a variety of services:

- Administrative and legislative advocacy,
- Provision of information to prisoners on their rights and how they can pursue those rights,
- Individual and class action lawsuits
- Referral to panels of private attorneys, such as the Women's Bar Assoc. Framingham Project.

On Mondays, from 1-4 p.m., attorneys and paralegals work on intake and assess inmates' circumstances. They focus on guard-on-prisoner brutality, healthcare and conditions of confinement issues and provide representation to gay and lesbian prisoners. They do not take on disciplinary, parole or re-classification hearings but can provide references to groups that will.

**Massachusetts Department of Correction**

50 Maple St., Suite 3, Milford, MA 01757  
(508) 422-3300

Provides children's centers in visiting rooms, parent education, self-help support groups, information, referrals, case management, group activities for children, religious ministry, and family reunification support.

**Northeastern University Prisoners' Rights Clinic**

Northeastern University School of Law, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115  
(617) 373-3628

This Northeastern program represents state prisoners in Eastern Mass. in parole revocation, disciplinary, and classification hearings. Because this program is university-affiliated, it may not be staffed during transitional periods in the academic schedule.

**Western Massachusetts Legal Services**

20 Hampden Ave., Suite 100, Northampton, MA 01060  
(800) 639-1309

Inmates in local county jails may access limited direct legal services in civil law matters (not prison conditions) through this office. Services limited to housing issues, public benefit rights, some family law.

## Legal Services at Specific Institutions

### **Middlesex County Inmate Legal Services**

*Middlesex County House of Corrections*

269 Treble Cove Rd, Box 565, Billerica MA 01821

*Middlesex County Jail*

40 Thorndike St., Box 97, East Cambridge, MA 02141

Legal Services provides legal assistance to inmates of both institutions, including issues involving sentencing, parole, unlawful incarceration, institutional issues (such as parole release, post-conviction release, administrative hearings, etc.)

### **Suffolk County Inmate Legal Services**

*Suffolk County House of Corrections*

20 Bradston St., Boston, MA 02118

*Suffolk County Jail*

200 Nashua St., Boston, MA 02114

Both institutions have on-site legal services (by appointment or referral) to assist with institutional matters (jail credit, disciplinary and parole hearings, sentencing), pro se civil matters, and complaints against the institution, such as harassment or denial of medical treatment.

## Services Primarily for Ex-Offenders

### **Aid to Incarcerated Mothers (AIM)**

434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 503, Boston, MA 02118

(617) 536-0058; Accept Collect Calls M, W, Th

AIM provides services to incarcerated mothers and their children, as well as women who have had trouble with the law in the past and are trying to improve their lives upon re-entry into the community. While a woman is in prison, AIM attempts to prevent her from being permanently separated from her children. AIM arranges foster care review with DSS, children's visitation, as well as counseling and support for children of incarcerated mothers. For women in transition, the RENEW program offers medical assistance, resource development (housing, education, jobs), parental assessment, and 1-on-1 counseling. The CHARM (Comprehensive Health to At-Risk Mothers) program works with women on issues of self-esteem and domestic violence, and helps them teach back to the community. AIM also runs a support group for women who have returned to the community, working on habits that will keep them clean and legal. Referrals for services such as detox programs, shelters and sober houses are also available.

### **Community Resource Centers (CRCs)**

CRCs are state-funded multi-service center for offenders and ex-offenders. Services include work readiness classes, sex offender referral and support, "thinking for a change" classes, reintegration counseling groups, transitional intervention, transitional housing, and housing search. Contact each center for specific dates and times.

#### *Boston:*

110 Arlington Street , Boston, MA 02116-5377

(617) 423-0750 Collect calls accepted

Director: Kevin Sturtevant, Managed by: SPAN

#### *Fall River*

186 South Main Street, Fall River, MA 02721

(508) 676-3729 No collect calls

Director: Kathryn Cunningham, Managed by: Bristol County Sheriff's Department

*Lowell*

45 Merrimack Street, Suite 500, Lowell, MA 01852  
(978) 458-4286 No collect calls  
Director: Dennis Theriault, Managed by: Spectrum, Inc.

*Springfield*

136 Williams Street, Springfield, MA 01105  
(413) 737-9544. No collect calls  
Director: Donna Hobart, Managed by: Spectra

*Worcester*

324 Grove Street, Worcester MA 01605  
(508) 831-0050 No collect calls  
Director: Kirsh Donis, Managed by: Spectrum, Inc

**Community Resources for Justice (CRJ/ Coming Home Directory)**

355 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116

CRJ helps clients transition from prison to independent community life, delivering services at a number of residential facilities and day services to help ex-offenders develop the skills necessary to avoid further conflict with the law. Programs include education, counseling, and assistance with employment and housing, and substance abuse treatment. They operate residential pre-release centers serving individuals leaving Suffolk County House of Correction, Department of Youth Services (DYS) custody, and federal facilities. The criminal justice system or a case manager should refer prisoners interested in these services. The Crime & Justice Institute of CRJ publishes the *Coming Home Directory, a Resource Directory of Offender Reentry Services in Greater Boston*. You can request a printed copy or access the directory online at: <http://cominghomedirectory.org/index.php>.

**First, Incorporated**

167 Centre St., Roxbury, MA 02119  
(617) 427-1588 No collect calls

First Incorporated provides services for men who have been released from prison and have substance abuse concerns, sometimes in combination with mental health problems. Ex-inmates can call directly, but most people are either referred to the organization or are required to participate by a judge or probation officer. The program is geared toward behavior modification through counseling and building structured lives, and assists participants with accessing services (legal, housing, medical care, benefits, referrals).

**Health and Education Services—TIP**

60 Merrimack St., Haverhill, MA 01830

TIP helps HIV-positive inmates from Massachusetts make the transition back into the community, providing advocacy, counseling, crisis intervention and transportation to services. They also provide information and referrals to resources and services, e.g., medical care, housing, benefits, etc.

**The Salvation Army—Harbor Light Center**

83 W. Brookline St., Boston, MA 02118  
(617) 536-7469

Harbor Light provides both short-term and longer residential substance abuse treatment programs for individuals in transition from prison to community. Programs include 3 meals a day, 1-on-1 counseling, structured classes on behavior and life decision-making, referrals and assistance making community contacts (housing, employment, etc.). Inmates can contact Harbor Light in writing or through a case manager.

**SPAN, Inc.**

110 Arlington St., Boston, MA 02116  
(617) 423-0750. Collect calls accepted.

SPAN provides services to inmates and ex-inmates making the transition from prison to community living in Eastern and Central MA. Programs include release planning, substance abuse counseling, transitional housing assistance, health education, reintegration support, and a drop-in center. SPAN provides a wide range of services specific to people with HIV, such as case management, transitional housing, medicine adherence assistance, etc. Agencies within SPAN include:

- **Community Resource Center (CRC)**—multi-service center for offenders and ex-offenders. See separate listing for CRCs
- **Transitional Intervention Program for HIV-Positive Inmates (TIP)**- covers all aspects of reintegration. They meet with inmates up to six months prior to release, and provide referrals to medical services as well as a number of social services.
- **Community Resource Center (CRC)**—multi-service center for offenders and ex-offenders. See separate listing for CRCs
- **Transitional Intervention Program for HIV-Positive Inmates (TIP)**- covers all aspects of reintegration. They meet with inmates up to six months prior to release, and provide referrals to medical services as well as a number of social services.
- **Housing Program for HIV-Positive Clients**- Helps clients find housing and may pay rent up to six months at Sullivan House, a halfway house.
- **Client Reintegration Support Group**- provides case management for non-HIV clients, etc.

**Spectrum Health Systems**

No collect calls

Central Office: 10 Mechanic St., Suite 302, Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 792-5400

**The Neil J. Houston House (NJHH):** 9 Notre Dame St., Roxbury, MA 02119  
(617) 445-3066

Spectrum operates five major programs in behavioral health, correctional treatment services, adolescent services, women’s services and prevention services.

- The Neil J. Houston House is a residential pre-release substance abuse treatment program offering pregnant women in prison an alternative to incarceration, pre- and post-natal medical services and early intervention services to their infants.
- Community Resource Centers for offenders and ex-offenders in Lowell and Worcester. See separate listing for CRCs.

<b><u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u></b>
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**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of New Hampshire**

18 Low Ave., Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 225-3080

The ACLU is not a resource for handling individual convictions or problems, unless related to conditions of confinement. The ACLU operates a number of specific projects, including the *AIDS Education Project* of the *National Prison Project*, and the *Gay and Lesbian Rights Project* of the ACLU. See listing under National Resources for more information.



**New Hampshire Department of Corrections**

PO Box 1806, Concord, NH 03302-1806  
(603) 271-5700

Provides children's center in visiting rooms, parent education, self-help support groups, information, referrals, case management, mentoring, gifts for children, marriage preparation and support, and public education and advocacy to offenders, their spouses and children and their children's caregivers.

**New Hampshire Legal Assistance**

154 High Street, P.O. Box 778, Portsmouth, NH 03802-0778  
(800) 334-3135

Provides assistance on prison conditions issues, direct referrals, and legislative advocacy. Assistance subject to limited resources.

<b><u>RHODE ISLAND</u></b>
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**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island**

128 Dorrance St., Suite 220, Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 831-7171

The ACLU is not a resource for handling individual convictions or problems, unless related to conditions of confinement. The ACLU operates a number of specific projects, including the *AIDS Education Project* of the *National Prison Project*, and the *Gay and Lesbian Rights Project* of the ACLU. See listing under National Resources for more information.

**Justice Services Program—Travelers Aid Society of RI**

177 Union St., Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 521-2255, 24-hour helpline (401) 521-SAFE. No collect calls

This Travelers Aid program assists ex-offenders in job development. Originally an on-site program at ACI (Adult Correctional Institute) called Making It Work, the program continues to help prisoners make the transition from prison to community life, specifically through employment services. Other core services: crisis intervention, case management, counseling, respite services, and information and referral. The program is for Travelers Aid clients, and becoming a client requires a simple intake process.

**Project Bridge**

369 Broad St., Providence, RI 02907

An 18-month discharge-planning program for people with HIV incarcerated at ACI in Rhode Island. The program includes clinical case management with free medical care provided at Miriam Hospital, referrals for housing, employment, and substance abuse. Project Bridge makes contact with individuals very discreetly, 1 to 3 months prior to their release. The program is limited to individuals who have been sentenced (i.e., not simply awaiting trial).

## VERMONT

### **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Vermont**

135 Elm St., Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 223-6304

The ACLU is not a resource for handling individual convictions or problems, unless related to conditions of confinement. The ACLU operates a number of specific projects, including the *AIDS Education Project* of the *National Prison Project*, and the *Gay and Lesbian Rights Project* of the ACLU. See listing under National Resources for more information.

### **Prisoners' Rights Office**

14 Baldwin St., #16, Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 828-3194

The Prisoners' Rights Office provides limited assistance with civil rights actions, post-conviction relief, habeas corpus, prison conditions, medical issues, releases, direct referrals, parole revocation, prison disciplinary matters. Services limited to Vermont.

### **Vermont Catholic Charities, Inc.**

351 North Ave., Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 658-6111

Vermont Catholic Charities provides one-on-one pastoral counseling, family visitation, inmate supervised passes, and referral services to VT inmates, ex-offenders, and their families. Assists inmates in transition back to the community with employment and housing. Inmates may speak to Deacon Steve Ratte when he visits prisons.

### **Vermont Department of Corrections**

103 South Main St., Waterbury, VT 05401  
(802) 241-2338

Provides parent education, self-help support group, information, referrals, group activities for children, family reunification support, family therapy, public education, and advocacy.

## NATIONAL RESOURCES

### Legal Advocacy

#### **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**

##### *National Prison Project*

915 15<sup>th</sup> St., N.W., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005

##### *Gay and Lesbian Rights Project*

125 Broad St., 18<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10004

The ACLU is not a resource for handling individual convictions or problems, unless related to conditions of confinement. The ACLU operates a number of specific projects, including the *AIDS Education Project* of the *National Prison Project*, and the *Gay and Lesbian Rights Project* of the ACLU.

- *The National Prison Project of the ACLU (NPP)* handles class action suits involving prison conditions and related issues in state and federal institutions. Litigation is usually limited to cases involving major class actions challenging prison conditions or otherwise of national significance. They also perform advocacy for criminal justice reform and educate the public on the government's prison policies. The quarterly NPP Journal is available to prisoners for \$2 per year.
- *The AIDS Education Project* serves as a resource center to provide educational and legal information regarding HIV in prison. Assists prison HIV support groups, peer education programs, offers referrals. Publishes *AIDS and Prisons: The Facts for Inmates and Officers*, in English and Spanish.
- *The Gay and Lesbian Rights Project* handles discrimination issues involving the rights of gays and lesbians. Contact should first be made through the state ACLU affiliates.

#### **Legal Services for Prisoners with Children**

1540 Market St., Suite 490, San Francisco, CA 94102

LSPC is an advocacy group, focusing on female prisoners and their families, and on the role of race in incarceration. They provide information, legal advice and referrals. Their most popular manual, the *Incarcerated Parents' Manual* is also available in Spanish and, along with other materials of interest, may be requested through the mail.

#### **U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division**

Special Litigation Section

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20530

Enforces the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), protecting residents of institutions from conditions that deprive them of their constitutional rights. Also enforces Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits race discrimination in public facilities. The Special Litigation Section has been active in prisoners' rights cases. They focus on conditions of confinement, law enforcement misconduct, and access to reproductive health facilities and places of religious worship.

## Legal Resources and Information

### **Columbia Human Rights Law Review—Jailhouse Lawyer’s Manual**

435 West 116<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10027

The JLM is a handbook developed for inmates, to inform them of their legal rights and how to secure them. The JLM explains procedures and legal jargon, and reports on important legal developments. The Manual and Supplement are available to inmates for \$43.00, and can be purchased by contacting Columbia Human Rights Law Review. A Spanish version of the manual is in progress.

### **Human Rights Watch Prisoner Resources**

[www.hrw.org/prison-resources](http://www.hrw.org/prison-resources)

A listing by state of resources for prisoner and ex-offenders.

### **National Lawyers Guild**

Prison Law Project, 132 Nassau St., Room 922, New York, NY 10038

Publishes *Jailhouse Lawyers Handbook* and *Women’s Appendix*.

### **Prison Legal News**

2400 NW, 80<sup>th</sup> Street, #148, Seattle, WA 98117

Prison Legal News is a monthly publication reviewing and analyzing prisoner rights, court rulings and reporting on prisoner news. Inmates may contact Prison Legal News to obtain brochures and other information about the publication.

### **Prison Policy Initiative**

PO Box 127

Northampton, MA 01061

[www.prisonpolicy.org](http://www.prisonpolicy.org)

Provides information and resources for prisoners including lists of legal resources for prisoners by state.

### **Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC)**

PO Box 70447, Oakland, CA 94612

510-893-4648

[www.prisonactivist.org/resources](http://www.prisonactivist.org/resources)

PARC is a prison abolitionist group committed to exposing and challenging all forms of institutionalized racism, sexism, able-ism, heterosexism, and classism, specifically within the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC). PARC believes in building strategies and tactics that build safety in our communities without reliance on the police or the PIC. PARC produces a directory that is free to prisoners upon request and seeks to work in solidarity with prisoners, ex-prisoners, their friends and families.

### **Prisoners’ Self-Help Litigation Manual** (Note: 4<sup>th</sup> edition is due on 8/1/2009, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is out of print)

Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513

This excellent resource includes information on federal and state legal systems, legal terminology, legal research and procedures. It also has directories of courts and legal assistance organizations.

## Political Advocacy

### **Amnesty International, U.S.A.**

5 Penn Plaza – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10001

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement working for international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of prisoners of conscience, and advocates for fair trial for political prisoners. It opposes the death penalty, torture, and other inhumane treatment of prisoners. For prisoners who have been ill-treated by prison personnel, Amnesty provides a “Questionnaire on Torture and Ill-treatment.”

### **Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE)**

#### *National Headquarters*

P.O. Box 2310, National Capitol Station, Washington, D.C. 20013-2310

#### *Maine*

842 Prince Point, Yarmouth, ME 04096

#### *New Hampshire*

P.O. Box 3594, Nashua, NH 03061-3594

#### *Vermont*

Peace & Justice Center, 21 Church St., Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 482-2438

CURE organizes prisoners, their families, and other concerned citizens to achieve reforms in the criminal justice system. Does not take on individual cases. Publishes a newsletter 3 times a year, \$2 subscription for prisoners, \$5 for families.

## Social Services & Counseling

### **Fortune Society**

53 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10010

(212) 691-7554 No collect calls

Fortune Society is an ex-offender self-help program offering general counseling, HIV/AIDS programming, court advocacy, public education, alternative to incarceration services, housing placement assistance, career development, treatment services, also targets at-risk youth. Publishes Fortune News, free to inmates upon request.

### **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—National Prison Project**

4805 Mt. Hope Dr., Baltimore, MD 21215

The National Prison Project of the NAACP’s mission is to begin rehabilitation for inmates upon incarceration. Programs are developed to fit institutional needs, and generally aim to provide inmates with the life skills necessary to succeed after release and thereby reduce recidivism. Some of the programs may focus on literacy, resume writing, math, etc. Inmates who are indigent may also be referred to lawyers who will take their case pro bono. The National Prison Project is present only in some states, including Maine and New York. For information, inmates should contact their warden, or the NAACP directly.

### **Stop Prisoner Rape, Inc.**

3325 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010  
(213) 384-1400, FAX (213) 384-1411 Collect calls accepted

A national human rights organization, Stop Prisoner Rape (SPR) seeks to end sexual violence against men, women, and youth in all forms of detention. SPR has three goals for its work: to push for policies that ensure institutional accountability, to change society's attitudes toward prisoner rape, and to promote access to resources for survivors of sexual assault behind bars. SPR's Resource Guide for Survivors of Rape Behind Bars lists legal and psychological counseling resources for survivors who are still incarcerated, those who have been released, and loved ones on the outside who are searching for ways to help. SPR's Survivor Speakers Bureau gives survivors a chance to work with journalists and policymakers to tell the real story about sexual assault behind bars. Finally, the SPR website features stories from survivors and information for family members, while a listserv provides subscribers with news reports and opportunities for activism.

## **Family Resources**

### **Family and Corrections Network**

32 Oak Grove Road, Palmyra, VA 22963  
(434) 589-3036 No collect calls  
[www.fcnetwork.org](http://www.fcnetwork.org), [fcn@fcnetwork.org](mailto:fcn@fcnetwork.org).

This organization provides information on programs for families in the correctional system. Also: training and technical assistance on children of prisoners, parenting programs for prisoners, prison visiting, incarcerated fathers and mothers, hospitality programs, keeping in touch, returning to the community, the impact of the justice system on families, and prison marriage

## **HIV/AIDS Resources**

### **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

*To order publications:*

CDC- NPIN  
Attn: Publications Department  
PO BOX 6003  
Rockville, MD 20849-6003

The CDC is a government agency that works with national, state, and local organizations to conduct research, publish findings and develop programs to promote health and well being. One of the centers within the CDC is the *National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP)*. The CDC publishes information on policy, prevention, surveillance, co-infection, and testing among other topics.

### **National Commission on Correctional Health Care**

1300 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657-3240

Publishes standards for health services for jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities, develops programs for training correctional and health care personnel, acts as a clearinghouse on correctional health care, conducts research on selected aspects of correctional health care. Publishes a quarterly newspaper, *CorrectCare*, which is available free to prison libraries, but cannot be sent free to individual prisoners.

**National Minority AIDS Council—Prison Initiative**

1931 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

The Prison Initiative HIV/AIDS education, technical assistance, and national advocacy programs publish materials for inmates, care providers, and case managers. Inmates can also access a Resource List for HIV and Corrections, updated bimonthly by contacting the Prison Initiative in the Treatment Department of the MNAC.

**POZ**

One Little West 12<sup>th</sup> St., 6<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10014

Published by Smart & Strong, POZ is a magazine about the HIV epidemic, including profiles and updates on treatment. It is published in English and Spanish. Contact POZ for copies.

## Steps to Take if You Are Being Harassed in Prison

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 124, Section 1, requires the Commissioner of Corrections to investigate claims of misconduct in jails and prisons.

If you feel that you are being harassed, by either your fellow inmates or by prison officials, you may file a grievance. A grievance is a complaint about your conditions or treatment (see sample grievance attached).

The Department of Corrections non-discrimination policy does not include sexual orientation, but Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 127, Section 32 requires that all prisoners be treated “equally and with kindness.”

Prison regulations are found in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR). As a prisoner, you must be allowed to see the CMR if you ask for it.

**103 CMR 934 covers your legal rights.** Some of the things you should know are:

- There must be a written policy explaining your right to speak with a lawyer.
- There must be a written policy explaining your right to seek help from the Court or government officials.
- There must be a program to help you prepare and file legal papers. This help can either be a law library and supplies to fill out legal papers, or a program that lets you meet with a lawyer to discuss your problem.
- There must be a grievance policy to allow you to make complaints and get those complaints heard and solved.
- You CANNOT be punished for filing a complaint or grievance.



## Prison Visitation Rights

The Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) covers prison visitation policy.

If you are a prisoner in a state facility, 103 CMR 483.16 applies.

If you are in a county facility, 103 CMR 950.05 applies.

These regulations must be made available to you if you ask to see them.

The rules do not limit who may visit, but they do allow prison officials broad discretion to end or forbid visits. The rule states that “visitors shall conduct themselves reasonably and not engage in physical contact with inmates that is excessive or inappropriate for a public place.” (103 CMR 483.15). A homophobic prison official could try to use this rule to prevent a prisoner’s same-sex lover from visiting.

If someone visits you (partner, lover, friend) and, after some physical contact (a kiss, hug), his/her visitation rights are suspended or ended completely, you and your visitor do have a right to attempt to get visitation rights restored.

### **The VISITOR:**

- Must be given a reason for the suspension or ban on visiting, in most cases.
- Must be told by the prison superintendent, within a week, if and when s/he may start visiting again, or whether there will be restrictions on visiting.
- May, within fifteen working days, seek a review of the visiting restrictions and get a hearing with the Superintendent.

### **The INMATE:**

- Must get a copy of the prison superintendent’s decision.
- May file a grievance. A grievance is a complaint about your conditions or treatment (see sample grievance attached).

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## Sample Grievance

I, John/Jane Inmate, was harassed/ threatened/ physically attacked because of my sexual orientation by [name(s) of person(s) involved] on [date(s) that the act(s) took place].

☺ When you write a grievance, be sure to include as much information as you can remember. Include in your complaint:

- what happened
- when it happened
- who did it
- where it happened
- what was said by the attacker(s)—paraphrase if you do not remember the exact quote.
- who saw it happen
- why you think it happened

If you reported harassment to any prison official(s) previously, indicate who you told, when, and what they did or did not do about it.