



Visions of Tomorrow NC  
Life always offer you a second chance, its called tomorrow



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# FORESIGHT MAGAZINE



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## Visions of Tomorrow NC

We focus on assisting inmates transitioning back into the community by providing specialized job training upon release, as well as help with resume writing, housing, family support and activities for the children.

Supporting our cause is as important as ever as we help our state's incarcerated build lives anew outside of prison with their loved ones by their sides.

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

April  
2021

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

## Greetings all,

Now that 2020 is behind us, we can focus on brighter days. I'm sending out this special edition to inform you of important issues all of you have been writing about such as the economic impact payment, Parole, and a few other important issues.

Since our December 2020 issue many of you received a newsletter from NC-CURE with more untruths about me from Deborah Elizabeth Forbes. Of course, she made it a point to send my son a copy. I've never liked playing the cat and mouse game so I'm going to make this my final response to her lies. I know you've heard this saying before; I'm going to tell you the truth and nothing but the truth so help me God. After reading her newsletter I concluded that there must be a reason she is so obsessed with me. First let me say how thrilled that about the news that Dr. Sandra Hardee is now a part of NC-CURE. I think she is the key who will be able to open all the locks in the area of leadership. The reason for my happiness lies in the fact that I think she is a very resourceful and smart woman who will easily understand what is really going on behind the scenes at Forbes.

Sometimes things look too good to be true. When it comes to something like that, it usually really is. What I can't seem to understand is how someone can behave so irresponsibly towards others and have such outbursts as if they have a split personality. I may not be an expert in the psychology of a personality, but I am quite sober enough to notice when someone has a problem. Especially when he weaves a spider's web around himself, he lies and constantly catches people in it. Ms. Forbes simply cannot fathom by analyzing what she writes. Do you know why? Because often she writes the newsletter as if she is someone else. Is that weird enough? Well, you haven't heard everything yet. Mrs. Forbes thinks there are ways to entangle me in her web of lies. But as is usually the case with spider-like webs, larger bugs still find their way to escape. Fortunately, I realized that the Lady had her problems and in a very honest way I decided to get out of that net.

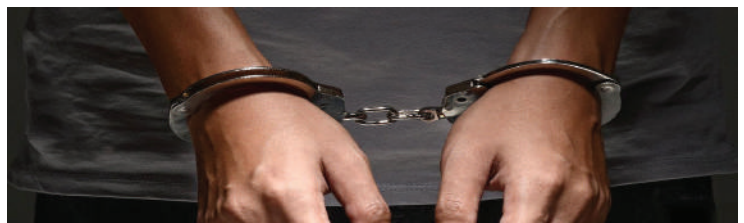
What I have achieved with my hard and dedicated work, I am very proud because everything is on a legal basis. From this position, my conscience is absolutely clear, which cannot be said of Mrs. Forbes, who, probably driven by jealousy, decided to ruin everything I had gained over the years. I won't let her do that. I suggested the OTW, I designed and formatted the template; she provided the content. There was no newsletter until I got there, she has no files only the template that she continues to use.

I can prove that everything she states is not true with the documents from the post office, secretary of state etc. She is devious, what is she going to do with a Durham NC post office box in Concord NC? Is she going to drive two hours to pick her mail? NC-Cure doesn't even have a website, if I had made one, you would think she would be happy about it. It is incomprehensible to me why she is doing this when she knows that she will be at a loss.

As for my son, he is home. Pastor Brooks has been ministering at other facilities; before the pandemic. Elizabeth wrote the letter to the chaplain's office in Raleigh to have Bishop Brooks removed. If I sent her a letter that she claims my son wrote, how can she assume Bishop Brooks knew about it? Why would she take it upon herself to call Raleigh to have him removed because she felt he was violating policy. Note that the letter was copied to Pastor Manning who she claim was responsible. How would she feel if I were to call Raleigh to let them know she was accepting stamps through the mail as payment for membership dues? She was getting back at Bishop Brooks because he resigned along with two other board members at the same time I did. I have provided the email of my resignation to the board; I couldn't produce such a document unless it was sent via email.

The response from NC-Cure was also noted. I don't want my life to turn into the manipulation and lies this lady is prone to. I want all this to end once and for all.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





## Director's letter continued from page 1

I want to believe that this world is really a better place and that there is room for goodness in it. So I turn to brighter things and topics. Visions of Tomorrow NC has had another successful Coat and Toy Event for the Children of those incarcerated. Although we had to make minor adjustments for the distribution due to COVID-19.

We blessed 341 children this year. We are grateful to all the donors, major retailers, participating DPS facilities, Volunteers and Board members for making this a success during this pandemic.

### Below is a copy of the letter sent to NCDPS by Deborah Elizabeth Forbes.

From: NC-CURE {Citizens United for Restorative Effectiveness} (mai1to:northcarolinacure@yahoo.com1  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 4:36 PM  
To: Addams, Susan @ncdps.gov  
Cc: Mable Manning <manningmablet1ger@outlook.com>  
Subject: [External] NC-CURE - Luther Brooks

Hello Susan,

Rev Mable Manning is on our Board of Directors for NC-CURE and asked that I forward the attached letter on to you. First and far most, NC-CURE has worked with people incarcerated, their families and prison staff for over eleven years. We have worked with four different Prison Administrations. We are a 501c3 nonprofit grassroots criminal justice reform group with a heavy focus on people with the mentally ill and disabled incarcerated.

Recently, and only after three weeks in the position of Executive Director, the board dismissed Mrs. Brenda Miles from our organization for unethical business practices of which the Board is having investigated by our attorney. Mrs. Miles was with NC-CURE as a volunteer for two years prior to her dismissal. I have been the ED for ten years and the organization has never had this type of issues before.

In a box of letters sent to NC-CURE from families and inmates which was turned over to the Board by Mrs. Miles, was a letter from Mrs. Miles son Decarlo Bennett. We are aware that Bishop Brooks is a longtime family friend of Mrs. Miles and that Bishop Brooks has assisted Mrs. Miles with her Janitorial Service she owns and operates. Bishop Brooks has been picking her son up for off site visits for some time, we assume to worship. The problem is, we have had inmates' complaints and family at this facility who feel Mr. Bennett is getting privileged treatment due to Bishop Brooks prison ministry and his mother's influence. The contents of the letter is extremely concerning as no inmate should have the privilege to access to computer, Pods or any other items that could put the prison population at risk or prison staff, including unauthorized watches that could be used for bartering, etc. Bishop Brooks should know better than to accommodate these types of requests as should Mrs. Miles. The Board made a decision to report the contents of the letter to the prison facility as it is reflective of unauthorized privileges and possibly abuse of privileges allowed to Bishop Brooks.

NC-CURE Board Member  
Rev. Mable Manning  
Elizabeth Forbes, Policy Advisor  
NC-CURE  
P OBox 72822  
Durham, NC 27722

Why would anybody contact her about my son getting special privileges?

Why would the board make a decision to report the letter (that I don't recall seeing)?

Again, Forbes is vindictive, and the board she had at the time was no different; they went along with whatever she said. If she would do this to my son who she didn't know, she would do it to anybody. If she wasn't trying to cause me harm, she wouldn't have gone after him. All because she couldn't control me.

**“Does that make sense” is a phrase that creates uncertainty and doubt instead of being reassuring.**





By Hannah Critchfield

North Carolina began vaccinating state prisoners Wednesday after its prison agency received its first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from the state health department.

Correctional staff who work with COVID-19-positive incarcerated people or in prison units with outbreaks, as well as the health care staff administering shots, are also receiving the vaccine.

Around 1,000 Moderna vaccines allocated for state prisons this week have arrived, according to a Department of Public Safety press release issued Wednesday morning. About 300 more vaccine doses are expected to arrive and be administered "within days."

Yesterday's rollout marks the first time incarcerated people in state custody have been offered inoculation for a virus that has decimated prisons across North Carolina, leaving 40 inmates dead and thousands infected.

Roughly one in five state prisoners has had COVID-19, according to a North Carolina Health News analysis, giving the institutions a death rate that's not quite double that of the general public.

Only state prisoners who are 75 or older are currently being offered the coronavirus vaccine due to limited availability, according to the press release. Staff who are 75 and older, even if they do not work with COVID-positive inmates, can also get inoculated.

"All of the facilities that are open are scheduled to receive it at this point," said John Bull, DPS spokesperson, when asked which of North Carolina's 55 prisons will be receiving the vaccine this week.

A little over half – 23 out of 40 – of the state prisoners who have died of coronavirus were 65 or older, according to press releases and death records obtained by NC Health News. Nine of them were 75 or older.

COVID-19 vaccines will be made available to younger prisoners and staff through the prison system as the prison receives more doses from the state Department of Health and Human Services.

"Vaccination opportunity will expand to age 65 or older based on vaccine availability," Bull said in the press release announcement.

These first vaccines will be administered by prison health care staff, though "strike teams" with possible assistance from the state National Guard will help in coming weeks as more doses become available. The Guard is currently assisting with vaccinating staff in the Central Prison "region," one of the four designated areas DPS has set up to receive initial doses of the vaccine.

From there, the COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed to all nearby prisons in the region.

Getting vaccinated is currently voluntary for both incarcerated people and staff members. That could change, according to previous statements made by Ishee, who noted it would be a decision made in consultation with the state health department.

"But we are not there right now," he said at a Jan. 14 press conference. "It is voluntary, and we really hope that our staff and our offenders will jump on board and get vaccinated."

## Brainteaser Challenge

The response to the brainteasers challenge was overwhelming.

I never considered the fact that you could have someone go on the Internet to get the answers: which is exactly what happened. This is unfortunate for those who figured them out by themselves.

Due to the overwhelming response, we have decided to send out four packages each quarter or when they come out for purchase.

I will be sending out letters to those that are selected and the approximate time of order. You will be responsible for sending in your list to us in time to place the order.

Many facilities did not receive the newsletter due to mail delivery issues.

Great Job!

Answers:

1. Turn Me On My Side And I Am Everything. Cut Me In Half And I Am Nothing. What Am I? Answer: The number 8.

2. If You Have Me, You Want To Share Me. If You Share Me, You Don't Have Me. What Am I? Answer: A secret. If you share a secret, then it's no longer secretive.

3. You're In A Dark Room With A Candle, A Wood Stove, And A Gas Lamp. You Only Have One Match, So What Do You Light First? Answer: The match

4. Cowboy Rides Into A Town On Friday, Stays For Three Days, And Leaves On Friday. How Does He Manage This? Answer: He rides his horse, whose name is Friday.

5. A Red House Is Made From Red Bricks. A Blue House Is Made From Blue Bricks. A Yellow House Is Made From Yellow Bricks. What Is A Green House Made From? Answer: Glass.

6. In My Hand I Have Two American Coins That Are Newly Minted. Together, They Total 30 Cents. One Isn't A Nickel. What Are The Coins? Answer: A nickel and a quarter.

7. Pinkie Pinkerton Lived In A Pink, One-Story House On Pink Street. The Walls Were Pink, Her Stuff Was Pink, Even Her Cat Was Pink. EVERYTHING Was Pink. So What Color Were The Stairs? Answer: There are no stairs in a one-story house.

8. You are driving a bus. At the first stop, two women get on. The second stop, three men get on, and one woman gets off. At the third stop, three kids and their mom get on, and a man gets off. The bus is grey, and it is raining outside.

Answer; What color is the bus driver's hair? The color of the drivers hair is your hair color since YOU are driving the bus.

9. What can you hold without ever touching or using your hands? Your breath!



## Myths and Truths about the Parole Process

**Myth:** The Parole Commission meets as a group in a formal hearing to decide whether an offender should be paroled.

**Truth:** The commissioners conduct an individual review of the offender's file and vote independently.

**Myth:** Offenders apply for or request parole.

**Truth:** Inmates become eligible for parole according to governing laws at the time of the offense.

**Myth:** The Governor can overturn the Parole Commission's decisions.

**Truth:** The Commission has exclusive authority in parole matters. There is no appeal process.

**Myth:** The Parole Commission meets face to face with the offender during the parole review process.

**Truth:** The Commission does not meet with the offender. Parole decisions are based on information in offenders' case files that was requested and/or received, information from the Division of Prisons, and views of victims, family members, and any other interested parties.

**Myth:** Commissioners place incarcerated offenders in community based programs (work release, home leaves, etc.)

**Truth:** The Commission has no jurisdiction over the placement of offenders in community-based programs while they are incarcerated. The Commission gives final approval for work release placement in Life sentence cases, but takes action only after receiving a recommendation from the Division of Prisons.

**Myth:** All of the Commissioners must agree to deny or approve parole for offenders.

**Truth:** The majority of the Commission - two members - must agree to deny or approve parole for all eligible offenders.

**Myth:** The Commission doesn't have to review cases every year.

**Truth:** Once an offender has met parole eligibility requirements, the Commission must review the case at a minimum of once per year. *"We do not take these new measures lightly," said Tim Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. "Our staff are working in accordance with CDC guidelines, while being mindful of adult risk management, as well as reentry best practices in order to identify and transition adult offenders into our communities in a safe and efficient manner."*

Last week, a coalition of civil rights groups filed a lawsuit asking the state Supreme Court to immediately release vulnerable inmates. The suit, filed by the ACLU of North Carolina, Disability Rights North Carolina and others, argues that Gov. Roy Cooper and the state Department of Public Safety have a legal duty to take action before a large-scale outbreak results in deaths inside the prisons and in surrounding communities.

Inside state prison manufacturing plants, inmates are now making face masks, gowns, disinfectant and hand sanitizer. Prison officials say all inmates and staff members will receive a face mask once enough are manufactured.

<https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/coronavirus/article241977711.html#storylink=cpy>

If you have already received your first stimulus payment from the CARES Act, the IRS's website confirms you should receive the second stimulus payment automatically. If you have not yet received your first stimulus payment, you likely will need to file a 2020 tax return to obtain both the first and second round of stimulus checks—please check this site for updates about how to do so in late January 2021. Note that you may need to file a 2020 tax return even if you applied for your EIP before the deadline, because the IRS was unable to process all claims in time. As explained below, please note that state jails and prisons are not allowed to take portions of the CAA stimulus payments to pay off any debts.

**Note:** The first round of stimulus checks under the CARES Act prohibited payments to joint tax filers if one spouse lacked a valid Social Security Number. That prohibition has been removed retroactively and does not apply to the second stimulus payment either. Now, if only one spouse has a valid Social Security Number, the stimulus amount is reduced from \$1,200 to \$600, unless one spouse served in the Armed Forces at any time in 2020. If neither spouse has a valid Social Security Number, the amount is reduced to zero. Valid social security numbers must also be included for each qualifying child. If you did not receive a CARES Act payment for this reason, you may now attempt to obtain both the first and second stimulus credits when you file a 2020 tax return. Advance payments are required to be made by January 15, 2021 for people in the States and Washington D.C. If an eligible individual in those places does not receive their payment automatically by that date, they may claim it by filing a 2020 tax return. Automatic payments will be based on information provided in 2019 tax returns. If you filed an online or paper claim for the CARES Act stimulus payment, that counts as filing a 2019 tax return and so you should receive your second stimulus payment automatically without further action. Please note that if you filed a paper claim but did not receive your first stimulus payment, it is likely that the IRS did not receive and/or did not process your tax return before the end of 2020. If that is the case, it is unlikely it will do so before the January 15, 2021 deadline. You can still receive both stimulus payments by filing a 2020 tax return, but you will have to wait longer for your payments.

The second round of stimulus checks are protected from debt collection, including by states and prisons. Section 272(d)(1) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act provides that the IRS may not apply reductions or offsets under 31 U.S.C. Sections 3716 and 37201A or 26 U.S.C. § 6402, including for overdue state or federal taxes or child support. Section 272(d)(2) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act provides that the second round of stimulus checks "shall not be transferable or assignable, at law or in equity, and no applicable payment shall be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, or the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law." This means that this round of stimulus checks may not be garnished to cover overdue debts by federal or state prisons. If you need to file a 2020 tax return to obtain your stimulus payments, please return to our website later in January 2021. We



## NC claims fewer prisoners died of COVID than documents show.

By Hannah Critchfield and Arabella Saunders

In the final hours of August 2, Billy Bingham lay alone in his cell, silent except for the sounds of his short, shallow breaths. Thirty-four minutes after midnight, he was dead. Paramedics arrived at the Albemarle Correctional Institute, a state prison in central North Carolina, too late to take him to the hospital, and instead called the time of death and left. A prison official called his uncle, who would wake up to a voicemail sharing the news.

Bingham was the ninth prisoner to die of COVID-19 in North Carolina—or at least, he would have been counted as such. But the state prison agency never reported his death to the public. To this day, Bingham, a former Marine Corps veteran, remains missing from the state's total count of prisoners who have died as a result of a COVID-19 infection.

Bingham's story is not unique. A North Carolina Health News investigation in partnership with VICE News found that in the first seven months of the pandemic, North Carolina failed to report all of the prisoners in its custody who died of COVID-19-related causes, according to death documents; through public information requests to the county register of deeds offices and the state medical examiner's office, our investigation identified three prisoners with COVID-19-related deaths who were not included in the state prison agency's death count.

Bingham's medical investigation, obtained by a public records request from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, states he returned to Albemarle prison on July 30; it makes no mention of whether he received a test that came back negative before his transfer. Regardless, a negative test is not used to determine whether someone's death was COVID-19-related, according to Campbell. Bingham was placed in "sick ward segregation," an isolated cell used to quarantine prisoners upon arrival.

His uncle Eddie alleged that Bingham, who was 61 and had lung disease and diabetes, told him he had simply gone to get treatment for trouble breathing. He would call Eddie three times that weekend, always to talk about his symptoms—how he thought he had a fever, how he was so weak he could barely walk to the bathroom. His illness consumed their conversations, Eddie said. But he insisted his nephew never mentioned previously testing positive for COVID-19.

Bingham may not have said he had COVID, but he made one thing clear—he was sure he was going to die. "He called me Sunday evening," his uncle said. "And he said, 'Eddie, I'm sick, I don't think I'm gonna make it.'" Hours later, Bingham was dead.



We have received numerous letters regarding the ELC. This program was designed to reduce the prison population due to the pandemic. As stated in the article on page 5, getting vaccinated is currently voluntary for inmates and many of you have opted out, however, the risk of catching the virus could be deadly. NCDPS is reporting that all staff and offenders have at least six cloth three-ply masks. Now that the vaccine is being offered, the early release program (ELC) is no longer available.

### Continued

Bingham's death certificate says he died of "pneumonia due to COVID-19 virus" on August 3. Two days later, Luther Wilson, 60, died of complications of COVID-19 coupled with end stage renal disease at Maury Correctional Institution in eastern North Carolina, according to his death certificate.

On September 20, Daryl Washington, a 51-year-old man incarcerated at Central Prison in Raleigh, died of complications of endocarditis, with COVID-19 listed as a significant contributing factor to his death.

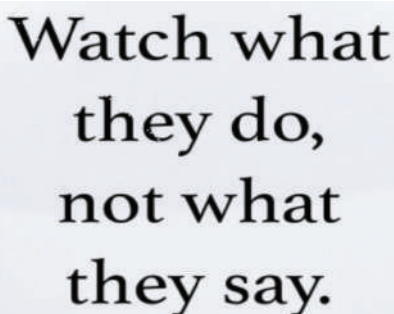
Deborah Radisch, former chief medical examiner for the state of North Carolina, reviewed all three death certificates at VICE News and NC Health News's request and said all would be considered COVID-19 deaths under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) criteria, which the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner follows.

Robert Anderson, chief of the Mortality Statistics Branch for the National Center of Health Statistics at the CDC, also reviewed the documents. He said all would be coded as COVID-19 deaths by the federal government, but in tabulation, Washington's would be classified more specifically as "COVID-19 related." It's not clear why the Department of Public Safety (DPS), which oversees state prisons, didn't include Bingham, Wilson, and Washington in their COVID-19-related death count, or announce them.

"I think it just speaks to a reluctance on the part of the state agency and state leadership to really be accountable and transparent about what is happening to folks who are incarcerated during this pandemic," said Leah Kang, attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, one of the plaintiffs in an ongoing lawsuit against the state over its ability to protect prisoners in their custody from the novel coronavirus.

"This is not just a COVID issue. This is an all-data issue—we need more transparency when it comes to the data about what's going on in prisons and jails. Deaths are one piece of it says Michele Deitch, attorney.

North Carolina Health News  
Headlines Newsletter  
February 11, 2021



Watch what  
they do,  
not what  
they say.



**Please note: This is for those who have not receive the economic payment. Based**

on information obtained from IRS. If you owe money to any state or government agency such as: child support, court fees, restitution etc., it will be deducted from your refund to offset the amount owed. If there is a balance it will be sent to you. However, you should receive a notice regarding the matter.

### **Form 1040 for Recovery Rebate**

If eligible, you can claim the Recovery Rebate Credit when you file your 2020 tax return Note: (Form 1040 or Form 1040-SR) electronically using tax software or on paper. The 2020 tax return instructions include a worksheet you can use to figure the amount of any Recovery Rebate Credit for which you are eligible. The worksheet requires you to know the amounts of your Economic Impact Payments.

### **IRS letters**

You should have received IRS Notice 1444 for the first Economic Impact Payment, and you should receive Notice 1444-B for the second Economic Impact Payment. Refer to them when completing your 2020 tax return. If eligible for the Recovery Rebate Credit, you will use the information from these letters to determine the amounts to include on the Recovery Rebate Credit Worksheet or in your tax preparation software to help you calculate your credit amount.

**For inmates (if you did not receive either check) the amount to add is \$1800.00.**

**If you have no income for the 2020 add 0.**

**We are not able to contact IRS or check the status of your return.**

Mail to:  
Department of the  
Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Kansas City, MO  
64999-0002

## **2nd Chances**

I'm trying hard, to be something I never was before.

God can only open, not make you walk through the door.  
You can sit on the bed, or put your feet on that cold  
floor. Christians fall, sinners are saved

Second chances were given, and Jesus paid.  
The Bible, is just showing you the way  
I might agree, if I wasn't a sinner first  
I got my second chance, when I was at my worst.

A sinner, I was, a sinner, I still am  
I no longer walk alone, by myself I no longer stand. Now,  
when I cry out to Jesus, it is to praise his name. Thanking  
him, for taking away, all my shame. For giving me hope,  
where I once had pain

I am alive, and he is to blame.  
I still have holes, and he is my ghost  
He became less, because he loved me the most.

Stories are told, time just happens  
At the end, there is a map to Heaven.  
Just how far is the East from the West?  
By the time you get there, it will be time to rest.

Close your eyes, and soak up his name  
When I opened mine, I was no longer the same.

Now when I shake, I don't rattle, and I don't roll My name  
was declared!  
God, is now the owner of my soul.



**Ben Diccio**

**Our organization does not help with any issues related to prison conditions or legal issues. It requires much research and contact with NCDPS officials. We do not have the resources or manpower for this endeavor.**



## From the Office of the ACLU

Good afternoon,

As you may be aware, in April 2020, the ACLU of North Carolina and partner legal organizations brought suit on behalf of the North Carolina NAACP and other clients against the State, challenging the conditions of confinement in North Carolina state prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic as unconstitutional.

On February 25, 2021, we reached a settlement in this case. The landmark settlement will result in the early release of at least 3,500 people in state custody over a period of 180 days, which will help to address overcrowding in the state prisons during the pandemic. Additionally, the settlement will ensure that the state takes important measures to mitigate the ongoing threat of COVID-19 in North Carolina's prisons, including through vaccination, testing, and safer cohorting and transfer protocols.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, we do not have any control over who will be considered or approved for early release. The North Carolina Department of Public Safety ("NC DPS") alone will make the determinations as to who may be released within the 180-day time frame. An early release means the person must be released a minimum of 14 days before their current projected release date. Additionally, the state will continue to release people in their custody who reach their projected release dates.

You can find more information on this settlement here:  
<https://www.acluofnorthcarolina.org/en/prisonsettlement>.

For inquiries and concerns with incidents related to COVID-19 mitigation measures in NCDPS prisons, NCDPS is accepting questions and concerns at the following email address:  
[covid19offenderinfo@ncdps.gov](mailto:covid19offenderinfo@ncdps.gov).

While we cannot provide legal services to individuals seeking release under the settlement, those seeking further guidance about whether other avenues exist, outside of the settlement, for you or your loved one's early release may wish to contact North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc. ("NCPLS")—an organization that advocates on behalf of individual incarcerated people. NCPLS works toward ensuring access to the courts for people incarcerated in North Carolina state prisons, correcting unlawful criminal sentences, and advocating for safe, humane, and constitutional prison conditions.

NCPLS may be reached at:  
PO Box 25397  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
Phone: 919.856.2200  
E-Mail: [ncpls@ncpls.org](mailto:ncpls@ncpls.org)

You may also wish to contact the North Carolina Justice Center (NCJC). You can contact the NCJC at:  
224 S. Dawson St. Raleigh, NC 27601  
[contact@ncjustice.org](mailto:contact@ncjustice.org)

Both NCPLS and NCJC have assisted individuals seeking individual petitions for relief.

Because we have not agreed to undertake legal representation of your matter at this time, please continue to take whatever steps are necessary to protect your legal rights and those who you have written to us about.



You may, for instance, consult the Jailhouse Lawyer's Handbook. The Handbook summarizes various legal rights and procedures. It is specifically designed to inform prisoners of how to navigate the judicial process as necessary to secure constitutional rights on both the federal and state level. The Handbook may be ordered for \$2.00 by contacting any of the following organizations:

National Lawyers' Guild  
132 Nassau Street, Room 922  
New York, N.Y. 10038 Rights

Center for Constitutional  
666 Broadway, 7th Floor New York, N.Y. 10012

In addition to the above-named legal resources, you may also refer to Protecting Your Health & Safety, a guide published by the Southern Poverty Law Center and made to assist prisoners in identifying and litigating federal civil rights claims against prison officials. To order a copy, please draft a \$10 check or money order made payable to Prison Legal News at:

Protecting Your Health and Safety

Prison Legal News

PO Box 548  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0548

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to follow up with us if you have additional concerns by emailing us at [contact@acluofnc.org](mailto:contact@acluofnc.org) or sending a letter to P.O. Box 28004, Raleigh, NC, 27611.

In addition, we encourage you to consult information provided on the NC DPS website describing the eligibility criteria it is using to review people for early release:  
<https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/adult-correction/prisons/prison-population-reduction-efforts#reinstatement/early-release>.

The current pandemic has affected us all. The Donations to Visions of Tomorrow NC has been severely affected, our resources are running low.

Our low donation receipts make it difficult to maintain our services at the current levels. We understand today's difficult economic situation. We ask everyone to donate at a level that is comfortable during these times. Every donation, no matter the amount is essential to our continued operations.

We know that information is essential to those we serve, however the cost of postage and printing our newsletters; currently 1036 copies, is a major expense. To stretch our underfunded budget, we have decided to cut down the cost of printing, we will begin with a new mailing list.

Anyone wanting to receive the newsletter will need to send a request which will be kept on file for 6 months. The period will begin May 1, 2021 through November 30, 2021. Request made during that period will be added, however, the list will expire November 2021.

Newsletters are also accessible for download on our website. We ask that you share your newsletter with others after you have read it. Hopefully, we will receive enough donations to return to a normal printing run soon.



## Prisoners eligible for stimulus checks, but getting payout behind bars is complicated

Like many Americans, people behind bars are waiting to see if they will be getting checks from the federal government as part of the new stimulus bill -- provided it passes Congress this month as expected.

Advocates for prisoners say the all too common refrain of "What happened to my check?" shows the system for the incarcerated needs to be improved. This comes after a federal judge reversed an initial attempt by the Internal Revenue Service to disqualify inmates from receiving stimulus payments.

Past-due child support is just one of many things that states can deduct from an inmate's outside income.

It started with Congress directing relief money to go out fast. A short time later, the Internal Revenue Service sent a memo to prisons saying essentially, "Oops, we didn't mean to cut inmate checks. Send those back." Months later, a federal judge countered in so many words, "Actually, no, deliver the money after all."

Second round payments were sometimes sent to prisons on U.S. Treasury debit cards, which are useless behind bars.

We have received many letters from inmates stating that Correction officials are returning their checks to IRS for unknown reasons. They complained of not having any assistance or IRS forms available to request the stimulus check.

We have received many letters from inmates stating that Correction officials are returning their checks to IRS for unknown reasons. They complained of not having any assistance or IRS forms available to request the stimulus check.

For its part, the IRS raised questions last year about whether prisoners should receive relief money. When that came before a federal court in Northern California, the IRS argued Congress didn't clearly include prisoners and that withholding their checks would help protect against possible fraud.

But Bentley said the court made it clear in the class-action lawsuit brought by aggrieved prisoners that incarcerated people are entitled to the federal relief money "just like everyone else is."

A difficult-to-ascertain number of prisoners had their stimulus payment deposited in a joint account on the outside managed by a spouse or relative. Those fortunate to maintain such family connections had better luck collecting what they qualified for. Advocacy groups are highly critical of what they consider to be roadblocks created by state prison policies, which they said made it difficult for folks to claim money that was theirs.

"There was willful negligence," claimed Rory Elliott, an organizer with Critical Resistance PDX, who cited instances reported to her group where guards allegedly failed to hand out all of the instructions inmates needed to file for stimulus payments. Filing a tax return is the best way for most Americans to make sure they're on the government's radar for a check. Easier said than done though from behind bars.

Letter to our Congressman  
Congressman G. K. Butterfield  
216 Nash St., N # B  
Wilson, NC 27893  
Re: Inmates and Stimulus Checks  
Dear Congressman Butterfield:

**The truest help we can render a restricted man is not to take his burden from him, but to call out his best energy, that he may be able to bear the burden.**

Visions of Tomorrow NC is a non-profit donation supported advocacy organization, supporting NC inmates, children, and their families. We focus on inmate reintegration along with family support during incarceration, provide aid with housing, and job training.

I am writing to you to advocate for some of your constituents who are having extreme difficulty obtaining their COVID stimulus money as provided for in three pieces of legislation since the start of the pandemic. Many inmates in North Carolina facilities are having extreme difficulty receiving the funds that they are entitled to from this legislation. Most have not received the first or second checks as we now approach the issuance of the third. Our volunteers have mailed over 400 IRS Form 1040s to inmates with instructions for completing them. However, we have been repeatedly informed that there is no way to get the form or assistance in filing and mailing them.

I am sure that you are aware of the ruling of the United States District Court in a recent class action lawsuit from aggrieved prisoners that persons who are incarcerated are entitled to federal relief money "just like everyone else is." Despite the clear ruling of the courts, our own inmates in North Carolina are finding many barriers towards claiming the stimulus benefits that are rightfully theirs.

My organization is doing all that we can to provide crucial assistance; however, the barriers are truly disheartening and fly in the face of ethics and the law. I would like to be provided with answers as to why these prisoners are not receiving their payments and why they cannot receive support from North Carolina corrections.

I hope by bringing this important issue to your attention that you will be able to take action to remedy this situation. I would certainly appreciate any help which you can provide. I look forward to hearing a positive response from your office. Please find it in your schedule to other Congressman and Committees know that this appropriated money is not reaching intended recipients who would most benefit from it.



Filing Status [ ] Single [ ] Married filing jointly [ ] Married filing separately (MFS) [ ] Head of household (HOH) [ ] Qualifying widow(er) (QW)
Check only one box. If you checked the MFS box, enter the name of your spouse. If you checked the HOH or QW box, enter the child's name if the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent

Form fields for personal information: Your first name and middle initial, Last name, Your social security number, Spouse's social security number, Home address, Apt. no., City, town, or post office, State, ZIP code, Foreign country name, Foreign province/state/county, Foreign postal code, Presidential Election Campaign.

At any time during 2020, did you receive, sell, send, exchange, or otherwise acquire any financial interest in any virtual currency? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Standard Deduction Someone can claim: [ ] You as a dependent [ ] Your spouse as a dependent [ ] Spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a dual-status alien

Age/Blindness You: [ ] Were born before January 2, 1956 [ ] Are blind Spouse: [ ] Was born before January 2, 1956 [ ] Is blind

Table for Dependents with columns: (1) First name, Last name, (2) Social security number, (3) Relationship to you, (4) Child tax credit, Credit for other dependents.

Main income table with rows 1-15: 1 Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2; 2a Tax-exempt interest; 3a Qualified dividends; 4a IRA distributions; 5a Pensions and annuities; 6a Social security benefits; 7 Capital gain or (loss); 8 Other income from Schedule 1, line 9; 9 Add lines 1, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7, and 8. This is your total income; 10 Adjustments to income; 11 Subtract line 10c from line 9. This is your adjusted gross income; 12 Standard deduction or itemized deductions; 13 Qualified business income deduction; 14 Add lines 12 and 13; 15 Taxable income.

16	Tax (see instructions). Check if any from Form(s): 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 8814 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4972 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	16
17	Amount from Schedule 2, line 3	17
18	Add lines 16 and 17	18
19	Child tax credit or credit for other dependents	19
20	Amount from Schedule 3, line 7	20
21	Add lines 19 and 20	21
22	Subtract line 21 from line 18. If zero or less, enter -0-	22
23	Other taxes, including self-employment tax, from Schedule 2, line 10	23
24	Add lines 22 and 23. This is your <b>total tax</b>	24
25	Federal income tax withheld from:	
a	Form(s) W-2	25a
b	Form(s) 1099	25b
c	Other forms (see instructions)	25c
d	Add lines 25a through 25c	25d
26	2020 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 2019 return	26
27	Earned income credit (EIC)	27
28	Additional child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812	28
29	American opportunity credit from Form 8863, line 8	29
30	Recovery rebate credit. See instructions	30
31	Amount from Schedule 3, line 13	31
32	Add lines 27 through 31. These are your <b>total other payments and refundable credits</b>	32
33	Add lines 25d, 26, and 32. These are your <b>total payments</b>	33

• If you have a qualifying child, attach Sch. EIC.  
• If you have nontaxable combat pay, see instructions.

**Refund**

34	If line 33 is more than line 24, subtract line 24 from line 33. This is the amount you <b>overpaid</b>	34
35a	Amount of line 34 you want <b>refunded to you</b> . If Form 8888 is attached, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	35a
b	Routing number	c Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Savings
d	Account number	
36	Amount of line 34 you want <b>applied to your 2021 estimated tax</b>	36

**Amount You Owe**

For details on how to pay, see instructions.

37	Subtract line 33 from line 24. This is the <b>amount you owe now</b>	37
<b>Note:</b> Schedule H and Schedule SE filers, line 37 may not represent all of the taxes you owe for 2020. See Schedule 3, line 12e, and its instructions for details.		
38	Estimated tax penalty (see instructions)	38

**Third Party Designee**

Do you want to allow another person to discuss this return with the IRS? See instructions  **Yes. Complete below.**  **No**

Designee's name  Phone no.  Personal identification number (PIN)

**Sign Here**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Your signature	Date	Your occupation	If the IRS sent you an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see inst.) <input type="text"/>
Spouse's signature. If a joint return, <b>both</b> must sign.	Date	Spouse's occupation	If the IRS sent your spouse an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see inst.) <input type="text"/>
Phone no.	Email address		

**Paid Preparer Use Only**

Preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	PTIN	Check if: <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed
Firm's name	Firm's address			Phone no.
				Firm's EIN



**Visions of Tomorrow NC**  
Life always offer you a second chance, its called tomorrow

**For more Information contact us at:**

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## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

The diverse operations of Visions of Tomorrow NC depend largely on its members, who continue to contribute in various ways to help the organization meet its objectives. You can:

- (a) donate your quota to this honorable cause, or
- (b) volunteer to serve in any of our membership capacities to help the children of offenders, or
- (c) help previously incarcerated individuals in ways that the government has failed to do so.

It doesn't matter in which area you join; our widespread operations require the input of

a large team to ensure that all previously incarcerated people under our program are catered for. By supporting the children with school supplies, clothing, and Christmas gifts; or aiding offenders transitioning back into the community with housing support, job placement or continuous education, you are contributing to the goals of the organization. We welcome the family and friends of those incarcerated to contact us for information, support or to volunteer.

Visit our website at [visionsoftomorrownc.org](http://visionsoftomorrownc.org) for more information.

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Visions of Tomorrow is a registered nonprofit organization, so all donations for magazine ads are tax-deductible and sincerely appreciated by the individuals and families whose lives we help transform.