

Reentry Book



2023

Appendix C: Resources for exonerees

This document identifies the various resources available to people who have been recently exonerated. It was prepared by attorney Colleen Fitzharris of the Detroit Federal Defender Office.

Statutory Resources

- H.B. 5815
- Exonerees are entitled to the full panoply of services available to parolees on a voluntary basis: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billanalysis/senate/pdf/2015-SFA-1028-A.pdf>
- Compensation—Wrongful Incarceration Compensation Act provides \$50,000 for each year in prison. People have 18 months to start the suit. <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billanalysis/senate/pdf/2015-SFA-0291-N.pdf>

Non-Profits

- **Proving Innocence.** Contact: Bill Branham. Organization provides each exoneree with \$800 no strings attached. Visit <http://provinginnocence.org/>.
- **After Innocence.** Contact: Jon Eldan, (415) 307-3386. Mr. Eldan helps exonerees sign up for benefits (health care, social security, etc.). He is also knowledgeable about the tax consequences of compensation. Visit <http://www.after-innocence.org/>.
- **The Innocence Project.** Every year, there is an Innocence Network Conference. All exonerees (even non-Innocence Network exonerees) are invited. Registration for exonerees is free. There are trainings and panels just for exonerees that discuss topics such as finances, anger management, and career preparation.
- **University of Michigan Law School Innocence Project.** Contact: David Moran, morand@umich.edu. MLaw hosts exoneration parties for each exonerated client. All exonerees are invited to attend. The party provides an opportunity for exonerees to meet each other and network
- **Innocence Maintained/Aunt Bobbi's House.** Exoneree Aaron Salter formed a non-profit to help exonerees adjust back to society, including helping them find jobs. He bought and renovated a house to be transitional housing for exonerees. Phone: 313-413-5569. E-mail: iminnocencemaintained@gmail.com. Visit: www.facebook.com/myinnocencemaintained.

- **Organization of Exonerees.** A non-profit to build a community and give a voice to exonerees. The organization advocates for policy changes and against wrongful convictions across the country. Phone: (313) 465-6812. E-Mail: natlorgofexonerees@outlook.com Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalorganizationofexonerees/>