

Date: February 1, 2008

Phillip S. Carchman P.J.A.D.

Attn: Public Access Report Comments

Hughes Justice Complex

P.O. Box 037

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Re: Report of the Supreme Court Committee on Public
Access to Court Records

This proposed rule change seems to go against anything our Governor is trying to do in regards to helping ex-inmates.

Our Governor Jon Corzine, who was recently (October) in a half way house in Camden, stated, he wants to change laws that make it difficult for inmates to get jobs after their release. This project the Governor is proposing (State plans program to help inmates with job and life skills, by Rick Hepp) was to help inmates find places to live after their release, give training on life skills and how to reconnect with their families. Every year the state releases about 14,000 prison inmates and two thirds of them will return to prison within 5 years. The Governor was quoted as saying, "These are devastating statistics and reducing those statistics is how I want to be measured."

I feel your making every "convicted" criminal record obtainable by releasing this information on the internet is counter productive to what the Governor is trying to do. There are also many people with criminal records that have gone on to live productive lives and by making this so easily obtainable you will be ruining lives that have changed for the better. These statistics will then be measured in miles.

To even think of posting full names, date of birth and address's for convicted felons is only going to make this unemployment rate and homelessness rate in our State even bigger. No one will hire them and no one will rent to them. Regardless of how long ago their crimes were or how they have changed. Most people hear the word criminal and once a criminal always a criminal. Unfortunately, our state feels this way also. An "illegal" immigrant has more rights then a U.S citizen with a record in this state. Actually they have more rights then a U.S Citizen without a record.

I also think you should add into your review a possible change in the rules regarding sealing or expunging certain records that are considered to be "Old".

If a crime was not committed in 25-30 years by that same person, this record should automatically be sealed or expunged, not put on the internet for everyone to view.

I think some of these laws you are projecting should go back to the drawing board.

Thank you for allowing a concerned citizens opinion.

Carla Marras
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