

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PRISONER REENTRY

What is "reentry"?

Reentry is the process of helping released offenders effectively reintegrate and rejoin their communities.

What is "reentry programming"?

Reentry programming is intended to help offenders acquire the life skills and personal rehabilitation necessary to become law-abiding citizens.

Reentry programming typically involves a comprehensive case management approach; examples include prerelease programs, drug rehabilitation, vocational training and work programs.

What is "recidivism"?

Recidivism is the act of re-engaging in criminal offenses despite having been punished.

What is the "recidivism rate"?

The recidivism rate is the proportion of persons released from prison who are re-arrested, re-convicted or returned to custody within a specific time period, either because: 1) they commit a new crime that results in a new conviction; or, 2) they commit a technical violation of supervision, such as not reporting to a parole officer or failing a drug test.

How does reentry programming affect recidivism rates?

The theory is that reentry programming provides tools to offenders to help them live productive, crime-free lives, thus reducing the overall recidivism rate in the community.

What is a "community based correctional facility (CBCF)"?

Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) are a sentencing alternative for non-dangerous felony offenders. Currently there are 18 CBCFs operating in Ohio.

What is the purpose of a CBCF?

CBCFs provide comprehensive programming that address offender issues such as chemical dependency, education, employment, and family relationships. Sentencing low-level offenders to CBCF creates more spaces in state prison for dangerous offenders.

Judges may sentence an offender to a CBCF program instead of sending them to prison or placing them solely on community control. CBCFs are considered to be the most restrictive sentencing option in the range of community-based sanctions.

What are the goals of the CBCFs?

The goals of the Community Based Correctional Facilities are to:

- Provide successful reentry into the community
- Provide treatment and rehabilitative services
- Reduce recidivism
- Maximize public safety
- Reduce state prison overcrowding
- Reduce taxpayers' cost of incarceration in Ohio

(FAQ info obtained from The Pew Center on the States, Cuyahoga County CBCF, and U.S. Department of Justice websites and compiled by the Civic Commons.)