

No Hope

Doing a term of life without the possibility of parole there's not much one "hopes" for in the way of freedom. There is no parole board to look forward to, there is no minimum amount of time to be served and if everything goes right you hope to be released early, there's nothing to hope for. Nothing.

The morbid way of thinking was that when I would go to sleep at night that I'd "hope" to not wake up in the morning so that I wouldn't have to live another day in this place of misery. Not that I couldn't live with myself anymore or live with the things I've done, but because there is nothing going on for me, there's nothing I can do to leave a positive blueprint, there's nothing available to convince myself that there are any avenues for me to pursue to acquire my freedom again. Then I find out about something known as a "Pardons Board". 'Hope' once again brought back.

This Pardons Board is not a guaranteed act. In this state (Nevada), I have to apply for a hearing by submitting an application. These are only applications to request a hearing to possibly being given a pardon. These applications are rejected with only maybe a handful being "heard" by the pardons board each term. The application itself is a request for the board to consider a possible pardon. On the application there are a number of questions that I must fill out, all of which I believe are if not "answered" the way the board wants it to be, can result in them denying to accept ones application. Some of these questions, e.g., are: 'Are you eligible for parole?', 'What is the nature of your offense?', 'Have you received any Notice of Charges' (prison infractions) within the last 12 months?', just to name a few. All of these questions are of importance and can result in ones application being accepted and the possibility of being granted

ones freedom again. Hope.

Imagine then, when those who work within the Department of Corrections, absolutely refuse to submit your Pardons Board application under the false pretense that you didn't turn it into them by the "due date." Hope diminished.

But what do you do when you know & can prove that you actually turned in your application for freedom no less than one week before it's due? How are you expected to react? Better yet, why does someone as low-on-the-ladder as corrections, in this instance the unit case-worker, have the ability to make up "due dates" of their own when the application says something else in bold print?

Why does the Department hire & keep in employ, persons that intentionally interfere with & hinder someones possibility of freedom? Specifically, the Ely State Prison, continuously employs persons to these "case-worker" positions who have repeatedly interfered with inmates release dates, parole dates, & now pardons board applications. Why are these people afforded the unwarranted ability to extinguish the hopes of the incarcerated?

It doesn't end there though. To work ones way "up" (for lack of better description) to applying for a pardons, you have to stay out of trouble, obviously. One disciplinary infraction can essentially destroy any possibility that your application be heard that term. Simply put, you have to be without blemish so that it presents better, so that those who sit on the Pardons Board don't waste others time along with their own, entertaining applications that show the person isn't even attempting to make a change in their life. So imagine when you have gone years without an infraction, presenting an application without blemish, that the case-worker refuses to submit your application well before the due date, you file a grievance with the Department complaining that one of these

employees maliciously hindered myself from a second chance at freedom, only to be hit with a frivolous infraction in a clear demonstration of retaliation?!

Now they're intentionally trumping up charges because I filed a grievance, because now this infraction will show up whenever the next term comes around for the Pardon Board. No hope.

How is a person who is trying to do right, to leave a positive blue-print not only with his family but with everyone he comes in contact with, trying to be granted a second look at freedom, to react when all the Department, the system, does is set them up for failure? Doing everything possible to beat them, even if it's by cheating them? How does one hold onto hope when they continue to get "Charlie Brown"-ed?

I'm tired of being the person that those who hold me captive expect me to be. Being that animal for the last twenty seven (27) years is not what I want anymore. But they leave me no hope! Why do I even attempt to hold on to the little bit of decency & humanity that I believe remains inside of me, if all that happens is the Department cuts me off at every corner?

I believe that hope is what drives a person to even want to do things in life. The hope for something better. The hope for change. Hope to be around people that love them & people they love. Hope to experience good, to do good. Nothing is given, nothing is "for sure" but we continue to hope that we can get the things we want, what we need, & possibly to share. We place hope in others because without them what we attempt to achieve on our own may not be possible. Hope is based in faith. If we don't have it, then why continue to exist? And when others interfere with the hope we cling on to with dear life, with every ounce of energy we can put out & even some we didn't know even had within us, our world goes into a tailspin. How does one right that, fix

It, giving us back "control"?

Far too many things that occur in prisons get overlooked, brushed aside, as if considered normal activity, a part of being in prison. That we're sent here as punishment, that one should abandon hope at the front gate. True, 'As punishment.' Not to be confused with: "To be punished." The two are, & should be, different. But having ones potential to be freed again, to be with their family & loved ones, to contribute to their community, possibly make a positive impact on another's life, to return to being human again, should not be stripped from someone simply because a person that works for the Department of Corrections isn't having a good day, or has a grudge against an inmate(s) because they have filed a grievance(s) about their conduct, or feels they are somehow above the Department's own regulations & procedures.

And what hope is left to someone like myself, when he attempts to do right, wants to make positive changes, but can't because employees of the D.O.C. sadistically hinder me from doing so? The Nevada Department of Corrections would rather die than admit one of theirs did wrong. Case in point, even after submitting hard evidence that this caseworker neglected to submit my pardons application before its due date, those that are part of the grievance process (more N.D.O.C. employees) still refuse to admit wrong doing. . . . No hope.

Submitted by:

Gilbert Palio #46244

Ely State Prison

P.O. Box 1989

Ely, NV 89301