

## Defining "Success" for Adult Felons

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"Success" for a person with a felony history is a dynamic condition of recognizable growth -- a purposeful process of positive unfolding combined with an expanding sense of belonging and constructive participation. This condition includes:

- progression out of past dysfunction and dismay into a state of present achievement and pursuit of future good...
- becoming increasingly capable and competent, while savoring the joy of emerging self-respect and the achievement of earned trust...
- a swelling sense of pride and dignity based on good intent, selfless deeds, discipline and a lifestyle that seeks harmony and balance...
- the gradual, consistent movement out of the darkness of falsehood and illusion, into the light of truth and reality...
- increasing recognition of and respect for self and others -- a conscious cultivation of the opportunity to "connect" & foster positive relationships...
- a growing propensity to value one's "investment" inside the circle...
- pursuit of higher consciousness and spiritual enlightenment...
- adoption of a lifestyle free of addiction and self-abandonment...
- an ever-expanding ability to laugh and love with fullness and delight...
- the freedom, linked with the power and control, required to make constructive choices and accept full ownership of their consequences...
- and, above all, an increasing capacity to experience a sense of peace.

Thus, "success" is a state of positive "becoming" -- an evolution, out of the ashes of past misdeeds, beyond the grip of sorrow, fear, shame and rage, into a deep appreciation for lessons learned, a commitment to make a rewarding contribution to others and a deep-seated gratitude for the nature and scope of one's life experience.

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