

Factors Influential in Post-Release Success of Prisoners

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Criminal Justive Involvement:

- how long you've been down: length of time *matters a lot*
- the conditions you've endured: how positive and/or negative
- your age now and how much time you've already served
- how you've used your time: personal growth vs. illusion

Awareness and Self-Understanding:

- access to and connection with your thoughts and feelings
- understanding and acceptance of the law of cause and effect
- level and degree of connection with your spiritual nature
- your willingness to accept responsibility for your behavior
- a vision of success and a positive, achievable path
- your expectations (of self, others, goals and time frames)

Self Control:

- how well you've come to terms with alienation (esp. anger)
- degree of self-honesty, maturity, sincerity & patience
- how flexible are you; how quickly can you adapt to new rules
- the nature and degree of your dependent thinking and behavior
- state of mental and emotional stability and balance

Values, Attitude and Self-Image:

- a burning desire/motivation to build a better future
- personal and social values: No Victims - do unto others
- your "attitude" toward yourself and others, etc. (perspective)
- how much you have "bought into" your self-image as an "outlaw"
- the negative reputation (criminal history) you've created
- level of understanding as to the true nature of freedom

Survival Skills and Relationships:

- your ability to meet and sustain basic survival needs
- your support system: strength, health, duration & consistency
- your ability to form and maintain positive relationships

Education and Skills:

- level of education & "understanding": formal and street savvy
- nature and depth of vocational skill & job seeking ability
- life skills required for day to day community living
- ability to adapt quickly and effectively to change & challenge

Determination and Duty:

- degree of determination to pay whatever dues needed to win
- sense of duty to make the best of the hand you've been dealt
- a commitment to service to others

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