

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

LACEY STRADFORD, WILLIAM)
NETTLES, JESSE STROUD and)
WILLIAM SCOTT on behalf of)
themselves and all others similarly)
situated,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

JOHN WETZEL, Secretary Pennsylvania)
Department of Corrections,)

Defendant.)

Civil No. 2:16-cv-2064
Hon. Juan R. Sánchez, Chief Judge

NOTICE OF CLASS CERTIFICATION AND JUDGEMENT

What is this About

Lacey Stradford, William Nettles, Jessie Stroud and William Scott filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC). They claimed that their right to Equal Protection as provided in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the rights of others, certified by the Court as the Plaintiff Class, who have been imprisoned in Pennsylvania with a sex offense classification were violated by DOC when it delayed or denied their release into a state owned or operated halfway house (a CCC or CCF) due to a policy caused by opposition in the community to their CCC or CCF placement. Following a number of legal proceedings, the U.S. District Court determined that this discrimination had and continued to occur.

This notice, which was approved by order of the U.S. District Court dated August 9, 2021, is being sent to all in the Plaintiff Class, those with a sex offense classification who were approved for parole but whose release on parole into a CCC or CCF has been subject to community sensitivity, otherwise described in this case as community opposition.

What DOC has been ordered not to do

The Court has ordered the DOC and its Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) to stop considering community sensitivity or opposition when deciding on CCC or CCF placement.

What DOC has been ordered to do

The Court has ordered the DOC Secretary to direct the BCC to review at this time the DOC's "Pending Release on Parole" (PRP) list and reevaluate individuals that have been on the list for the greatest length of time since a referral was made to the BCC following the issuance of a positive parole action. All individuals who are to receive this notice are, or should be, on the PRP list. When doing this, the BCC shall make reasonable efforts to remove the disparity (lack of uniformity) between the number of sex offenders and non-sex offenders who are placed in CCCs and CCFs once community sensitivity (opposition) is no longer considered. BCC may continue to consider other factors in its placement policy, but must inform the attorneys for the Plaintiff Class in a monthly report when it denies or delays placement based on another factor.

Other information

A request for referral to the BCC for placement should have been made by DOC or Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole staff for all individuals in the Plaintiff Class who need Community Correction Center or Community Contract Facility placement to obtain their release from prison on parole. **If that request has not been made, you should request that it be made now.**

Questions?

Anyone in the **Plaintiff Class** who has a question about this **notice** or the court's decision (its Judgment) or how it is being carried out may and should contact the **Attorneys for the Plaintiff Class** as approved by the Court.

The Attorneys for the Plaintiff Class are:

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* Note that the Community Justice Project does not provide legal assistance regarding general parole or incarceration complaints. It must limit questions and further assistance to that which relates to this case.