

## INFORMATION FOR DISPLACED INMATES

Criminal defense lawyers around the state are working hard to obtain relief for inmates who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. There are approximately 8000 people in the same situation as you, so this will take time. However, we are hopeful that over the next several days, depending on the type of charges that you have, we may be able to get your cases moved along as follows:

### *Family Member Incarcerated In Louisiana?*

For people seeking to locate incarcerated family members who were evacuated from the affected parishes, the DOC has established two hotlines where you can find out where your family member is and can leave a message for that family member letting them know where you are. The numbers are 225-342-3998 and 225-342-5935. DO NOT CALL INSTITUTIONS DIRECTLY, PLEASE CALL THE HOTLINE. The hotline is open between 7am and 10pm.

### *On Parole Or Probation In Louisiana and Evacuated?*

If you are on probation or parole in Louisiana and been evacuated to a new location, the Department of Probation and Parole has set up a number for you to report your new location. The number is 800-869-2909 if you are out-of-area, or 225-342-0921 if you are in greater Baton Rouge. The Department has acknowledged that people needed to leave, and calling should not result in violation charges. The Department is urging parolees and probationers to call in a timely fashion.

### *Evacuated and have a Court Date?*

Orleans courts are closed by Court Order 8/29 - 10/3. In Jefferson Parish, 24<sup>th</sup> JDC, juvenile court is to resume on 10/3, but no word yet on adult court. For more information, go to the [State Bar Website](#). The links on the left are for court information.

### *Louisiana Registered Sex Offender and Evacuated?*

If you are a sex offender required to register or a registered sex offender, and you have been evacuated to a new area, registration requirements provide that you must check in with the local sheriff or police in your new location. If you are also on probation or parole you should check in with the Department of Probation and Parole and report your new location. The number is 800-869-2909 if you are out-of-area, or 225-342-0921 if you are in greater Baton Rouge.

### *For Juveniles who were in Jail:*

All youths held in Bridge City Center for Youth (BCCY) are accounted for and are now held at Jetson Correctional Center. You can call Jetson at (225) 778-9000 and ask for John Anderson, Michael Gaines, Ricky Wright, or Linda London. Family members should demand that their child be brought to the phone immediately and be allowed to talk to their family. Youths held at the Youth Study Center, Plaquemine Detention Center, St. Bernard Center, Terrebonne Detention Center, and Riverde Detention Center have been routed to placements in other parts of the state. Family members should call Perla at (225) 287-7988 or (225) 328-3607 (cell) or Stacey at (225) 287-7955 to find out where their child is located. Ask Perla for a phone number, call, and demand that they be permitted to speak to their child immediately on the phone.

### *People who have completed their sentence:*

We are identifying inmates who have already finished their sentences so that the courts may order your immediate release.

### *People who have release dates between now and the end of the year:*

We are identifying people who have release dates in the near future. We are asking that such individuals be released on their release dates.

### *People who face municipal and misdemeanor charges only:*

We are identifying all individuals who face SOLELY municipal, traffic and misdemeanor charges and asking

that they be released on their own recognizance (ROR).

*People with probation holds for technical reasons:*

We are identifying all individuals who have probation holds for ONLY technical violations (e.g. missed court dates) and asking that these holds be lifted. Thus, if you have such a hold, or such a hold combined with municipal and/or misdemeanor charges, we are seeking your immediate release ROR.

*People required to complete special programs:*

We are identifying all individuals who, as a condition for release, are supposed to complete special programs (About Face, Blue Walters, Francois Drug Treatment programs). We will be addressing the program participants as a group to determine how you can get back into a program or be released.

*People who have been approved for transfer to drug treatment or halfway houses:*

We are seeking to have all such inmates transferred to the appropriate program (such as Cenikor, Odyssey House, Impact, etc.) immediately.

*People who have bonds set:*

*Orleans:*

If bail has already been set, a family member or friend can bond you out by going to the Attorney General's Office at 1885 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA. The temporary Orleans bonding office is in the lobby of the Attorney General's office and has bail bondsmen available. At that location, your family member or friend can post a commercial surety or cash bond. Upon posting bond, the bail order will be faxed to the Department of Corrections, which will locate you and fax the bail order to the facility where you are being held. You will sign the bail information at the facility where you are being housed. The facility will release you only to the person designated in the bail order. DOC will not transport you anywhere, so your family member or friend must be careful in coordinating the payment of bond and picking you up.

*Jefferson:*

A bail agent can go to the Jefferson parish jail and bail out persons who were originally held at the Jefferson parish jail and from whom bail has already been set. The Jefferson parish sheriff will have that inmate transferred to and then released from the Jefferson parish jail.

*St. Bernard:*

We are working on a way for people to make St. Bernard bonds.

*Plaquemines:*

We are working on a way for people to make Plaquemines bonds.

*People who do not yet have bonds set:*

If you have traffic, municipal and/or misdemeanor charges only, we are seeking to have you released ROR. If you are facing felony charges, we are seeking to have bond hearings held immediately. If bond is set, then you will need to follow the instructions above for making bond.

It may take several days for these steps to be made, but many people are working hard on your behalf. In the meantime, it will help not to call the lawyers who are working on these issues, because phone calls take away from the time that they can actually do the necessary legal work.

