

Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing

Prosecutors are leaders in making public safety determinations for their communities. An emerging law gives them the power to evaluate past sentences and determine whether they are still safe and just.



Prosecutors recognize the need to improve and strengthen the criminal justice system, but are rarely included in decisions involving reform, which can result in changes that do not adequately account for public safety and the rights of victims.

What is PIR?

Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing (PIR) is a law that gives prosecutors the ability to evaluate past cases and their respective sentences. PIR does not question the appropriateness of original sentencing decisions. Rather, it gives prosecutors the power to consider whether *further* confinement is in the interest of justice.

PIR laws recognize that prosecutors are in the best position to determine whether someone can be safely released where they have undergone rehabilitation, the person's sentence is inconsistent with current sentencing standards, or other reasons that better serve the interest of justice.

How Does it Work?

As leaders of their communities and stewards of criminal cases, prosecutors are best situated to decide which sentences serve the public safety interests of their county. Prosecutors take on a careful and measured evaluation of cases through PIR by incorporating the views of victims and reviewing case files, prison records, rehabilitation efforts and reentry plans. Based on the prosecutor's recommendation, the court decides whether the sentence will be revisited and how to structure the new sentence.

Role of Victims in PIR

Prosecutors must make decisions that balance the needs of public safety and victims every day. They approach PIR with the same lens by determining how each case may impact their community and ensuring victims' voices are incorporated throughout the process.

Who We Are

For The People is a non-partisan national organization led by former prosecutor Hillary Blout, who wrote and secured the passage of the nation's first PIR law.

Our organization supports prosecutors who are implementing PIR in their jurisdictions through case review, data analysis, policy and strategy development, victim notification, and coordination with criminal justice stakeholders.

PIR Nationally

Since 2019, **California, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington and Illinois** have enacted PIR laws. Florida, Maryland, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Utah, and Texas have also introduced PIR legislation.

PIR appeals to multiple states with varying political landscapes and diverse communities. To date, prosecutors have facilitated the resentencing of more than 700 incarcerated people through Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing.

Hear from Our Partners



"The job of the prosecutor is to strive for justice. Now, prosecutors have this unique ability to offer second chances. We should work to give people second chances when they earn them."

Jeff Reisig
Yolo County
District Attorney



"Except as a last resort, lengthy prison terms are expensive and unsustainable. They displace important public safety investments and often are not in the interest of justice or racial equity."

Diana Becton
Contra Costa County
District Attorney



"We must end long sentences that are not in the interest of justice or public safety. That's the only way to break the cycle of recidivism and to repair broken communities."

Dwain Woodley
San Diego County
Assistant District Attorney