

**LIFERS INCORPORATED**  
**POST CONVICTION RELIEF ACT INITIATIVE**

**Re: Open Appeal To The Public**

The Lifers Incorporated Post Conviction Relief Act Initiative is calling on all Pennsylvania State citizens to step-up and speak-out against a harsh legislative amendment which effectively denies tens-of-thousands of state prisoners access to the courts.

On November 17, 1995, the General Assembly enacted legislation amending the Pennsylvania Post Conviction Relief Act ("**PCRA**"), making the PCRA a state prisoner's sole means for obtaining relief in state courts, on collateral appeals. The amendment subsumes all other remedies a prisoner could have sought relief under before January 16, 1996 (effective date of the amendment), including the "Great Writ of Habeas Corpus." The amendment denies prisoners with meaningful constitutional claims, procedural due process and access to the courts.

Under the 1995 Amendment to the PCRA a prisoner has one (1) year to file a PCRA petition seeking relief. In the event that his or her petition is not filed within the one (1) year period, he or she will be "*Jurisdictionally Time-Barred*." The only exceptions to this is if the prisoner can come up with new evidence; Or, there was an obstruction of justice by a government official; Or, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court has announced a "new" rule of law and made it retroactive. In such a case, the prisoner will then have only 60 days to file a PCRA petition.

The 1995 Amendment to the PCRA can be found at 42 Pa. C.S.A. Sections 9545(b)(1)(i)-(iii); and 9545(b)(2); Entitled: "Jurisdiction and Proceedings" (also known as Senate Bill No. 81, Special Session No. 1 of 1995).

We are calling on all Pennsylvania citizens to join us in efforts to change the law, so that all citizens incarcerated in Pennsylvania State can exercise their right to a remedy for redress of meritorious constitutional claim(s). Call your Pennsylvania State Senators and Representatives and urge them to add an amendment to the 1995 Amendment to the PCRA. To include an extension of time from 60 days to a one (1) year deadline for "new" evidence; and to add a "*miscarriage of justice*" exception, permitting judges to use their own discretion as to whether or not a given case will be reviewed on the merits when a prisoner raises a substantive claim of denial of Constitutional rights.

Finally, the PCRA Initiative is currently planning a *Public Rally* to educate the public on the PCRA, its purpose and history; Innocence denied - why the death penalty act should be amended; Flaws in the system - cases in which innocent people were wrongly convicted and, at least one known person executed; and the costs and consequences of over incarceration. Over incarceration results in wrongful convictions and wrongful incarcerations, which is the essence of the phrase "*a miscarriage of justice which no civilized society can tolerate*."

**Note:** If you wish to help, in any way, please write: Lifers Incorporated - PCRA Initiative,  
P.O. Box 0246, Graterford, PA 19426-0246; Or, E-Mail: Natelee1008@live.com.

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