



Alvin Kennard

At 22, Alvin Kennard was sentenced to die in prison for a \$50 robbery in Bessemer. His Life Without Parole sentence was mandated under Alabama's Habitual Felony Offender Law, one of the nation's harshest.

But Alvin did not give up, nor did his family. When he was resentenced and released on time served on August 28, 2019, the courtroom was filled with supporters. At 58, he is starting life outside of the prison walls.

Amazingly, less than two months after being released from a death-in-prison sentence, Alvin is earning a paycheck, tithing at his church, and repairing cars. He is giving back to the state that gave up on him.

He also relies on his strong faith to overcome the challenges of re-entry. "My punishment was kind of harsh, but God didn't allow me to come out being mad," he said.

Frances Everson

When Frances Everson's life started spiraling out of control, she started using drugs – cocaine, specifically. She developed a habit of taking items from department stores. It was an impulse that ultimately landed her in Alabama's state prison system more than five times over the course of almost 20 years, starting in 1985.

She never took expensive items. One court document noted a loss of hair products at the cost of \$28.84 from an Albertson's. Another mentioned two cigarette cartons at a value of \$21.84 from a different grocery store. When Frances was released from prison for the last time in 2004, she avoided shopping altogether for years. Eventually, her faith and a newfound community at church helped her finally get away from using.

But in Frances's case, prosecutors wrote her off as someone who could never change her behavior. During her last term in prison in 2003, Frances wrote a letter asking for her sentence to be amended. The prosecutor in the case wrote to the judge, "I have prosecuted Everson for years... It is my opinion that keeping Ms. Everson in jail is the only way to keep her from stealing someone else's property."

She is now an active member of the Faith In Action congregation in Huntsville advocating for criminal justice reform. She is also a mother of three daughters, who she enjoys being able to spend time with.



"It's sad for them just to automatically assume the worst of a person no matter what. It doesn't matter how hard you try. I made it through the system regardless of how y'all thought or how y'all felt. I made it out."

--FRANCES EVERSON

At ADOC, any sentence can be a death sentence. 20 people have died by homicide, suicide, or overdose this year.

Roderick Abrams, St. Clair, suicide
John David Teague, Staton, stabbing
Paul Ford, Kilby, suicide
Matt Holmes, Limestone, suicide
Daniel Gentry, Donaldson, suicide
Steven Mullins, St. Clair, stabbing
Quinton Ashaad Few, Bibb, stabbing
Rashaud Dederic Morrisette, Fountain, suicide
Ray Anthony Little, Bibb, stabbing
Joseph Holloway, Fountain, stabbing
Jeremy Reshad Bailey, Fountain, stabbing
Christopher Hurst, Fountain, no cause of death given
Marco Tolbert, Donaldson, suicide
William Spratling, Donaldson, suspected overdose
Steven Davis, Donaldson, beaten by officers
Elvin Burnseed, Donaldson, possible overdose or homicide
William Warren, Ventress, stabbing
Ricky Gilland, Holman, possible overdose or suicide
Robert Green, Elmore, head injury
Marcus Green, Bullock, possible overdose



Photo of David Davis taken January 2019 during visitation by his wife Courtney.

David Davis

Courtney Davis spends every waking moment of her busy life **worrying that her husband will die in prison.** Her husband of four years, David Allen Davis, has been incarcerated at Bibb Correctional Facility since July 2019.

David currently suffers from multiple large and painful hernias that have caused an obstruction in his abdomen. David says some days the pain is unbearable, and stomach cramps make it hard for him to breathe. He's also experiencing nausea, vomiting frequently and cycling between extreme constipation and diarrhea. The risks of not operating include an abdominal rupture, which could lead to infection or even death.

When David arrived at Bibb in June, he met with a nurse and told her he was in severe pain and a doctor had advised him to undergo surgery. Since he's been at Bibb, David says he's seen a doctor twice. The last time was August 9, when she took pictures of his hernias and told him she was going to try to get his surgery approved.

More than two months later, his symptoms continue to worsen. David has made numerous requests for help from the infirmary, but has only had a few brief visits with a nurse, who gave him Tylenol and Milk of Magnesia, for which he was charged \$12.

Since we published David's story on October 25, he was placed on the appointment list at Bibb and is now at the top of the list to see an outside specialist for a consultation. It should not take a reporter exposing this indifference for ADOC to provide appropriate medical care.

How do we fix it?

When your prisons are the nation's worst, the solution is not building more.

See our full policy recommendations for specific ways Alabama can reduce adverse impacts for people currently and formerly in the system.

But however we do it, we must do it NOW. The state of Alabama is responsible for David Davis, and the thousands of others whose lives are at risk every day they spend in prison.

Alabamians for Fair Justice is comprised of formerly incarcerated individuals and family members of those currently or recently serving time in Alabama's prisons, advocates, and the following organizations: ACLU of Alabama, Alabama Appleseed, Alabama Arise, Alabama Civic Engagement Coalition, Alabama CURE, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, Alabama Justice Initiative, Faith in Action Alabama, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Offender Alumni Association, SPLC Action Fund, The Ordinary People Society.

For more information about the coalition, our policy recommendations, or to read more stories like these, please visit our website at alabamafairjustice.org.