

Stop jailing addicts, those who can't afford fines

Stop jailing addicts, those who can't afford fines

By Ned Pillersdorf

November 21, 2017 07:53 PM

UPDATED November 22, 2017 12:50 PM

The Herald Leader story about the surge in the number of women we incarcerate was not a surprise to anyone who has attended a criminal docket call. What you will see is a depressing long line of young female prisoners, that sadly parade into our local courts on a daily basis. The fact that one in four is either pregnant or has a child less than one year old is simply too depressing to think about.

At the risk of being politically incorrect and hurting the feelings of the judges and prosecutors I see every day, most of these young ladies don't belong in jail.

When I started practicing criminal law 36 years ago, my clients were overwhelmingly men who received stolen property, got into fights or broke into homes. Today my criminal defense clients are mostly female opioid addicts who can't shake their habit. They sell some pills, commit various forms of petty theft out of economic desperation and end up in and out of jail, and back in when they fail a drug test.

Read more here: <http://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article185945483.html#storylink=c...>

Last updated on November 27, 2017.

Print

Table of Contents

NEWS

News & publications

The news about recent activities for needed peoples.

[More News](#)

4 Jun 2025

From the Goodwill Insider: Cassandra and Casey of Project Renew

We love it when good news spreads—and recently, Goodwill Insider shined a...

[Continue Reading](#)

2 Jun 2025

White House Budget Proposes Elimination of Legal Services Corporation, Stripping Support from Kentucky Families Facing Natural Disasters, Domestic Violence, and More

Prestonsburg, Kentucky—The White House’s proposed federal budget for Fiscal...

[Continue Reading](#)