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THE NATIONAL REGISTRY  
OF EXONERATIONS

## Small Victories Add Up

We know the Registry's work has impact. We see it in our research cited in court cases, in the media, and in the work of policy makers trying to bring needed reforms to our criminal-justice system.

But impact takes many forms. Here's one we learned about this past month in an e-mail from a social worker. She wrote:

*"I work almost exclusively with people who have been exonerated, and the summary on your site is the first thing I read before I have my first meeting with any client. And often I print it out and encourage clients to use it in case they have difficulties getting an ID, housing or work, things that are always a challenge and shouldn't be.*

*One client and I were at the DMV together and he didn't have enough documents to prove his identity. He was away for 24 years so he didn't have much to show. We decided to run over to a copy shop, printed out his page from your site, and ran back. It worked!"*

This is a different sort of impact. It's one exoneree surmounting one obstacle. Yes, it's one small victory. But they add up.

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## 13 Exonerations Posted in October

The Registry published 13 exonerations in October. Browse our [recently posted](#) exonerations, including:

Three friends – [Justin Black](#) and brothers [Nathaniel Barnett](#) and [Phillip Barnett](#) – were convicted of murder in the death of a young woman near Huntington, West Virginia, based on the false confession of a fourth friend. They were exonerated in 2021 after DNA evidence pointed to a man with a history of violence against women.

In 1995, [Sherwood Brown](#) was sentenced to death for a triple murder in Eudora, Mississippi, based on faulty forensic evidence and false testimony by a witness. Brown was exonerated in 2021 by DNA testing that showed the prosecution's bitemark testimony and blood evidence claims were untrue.

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58 years in prison for the murder of a 10-year-old boy in Chicago. His brother, [Reginald Henderson](#), was sentenced to 55 years in prison for the same crime in 1996. They were exonerated in 2021 based on evidence that they falsely confessed after being physically abused by detectives.

In 2006, [Juwana Deering](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for setting a fire that killed five children in Oakland County, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2021 after arson experts concluded there was no evidence the fire was an arson, and the reinvestigation uncovered a statement by a surviving victim that Deering did not set the fire.

[Ralph Smith](#), of Columbus, Ohio, was sentenced to 67 years in prison in 2000 for armed robbery and other charges related to a home invasion. He was exonerated in 2021 after a judge ruled that prosecutors failed to disclose evidence to his attorneys that undermined the testimony of eyewitnesses and cast doubt on the occurrence of the home invasion.

murder and robbery in 1977. After being paroled, they were exonerated in 2021 based on crime-scene photos that discredited the testimony of the state's key witness.

In 2019, [Devin Lynn](#), a homeless man, was sentenced to 30 days in jail for trespassing. He was exonerated in 2020 based on evidence that he was arrested without being allowed an opportunity to leave the premises as the law required.

[Chad Breland](#), of Queens, New York, was sentenced to 15 years in 1997 for crimes related to a home invasion. He was exonerated in 2021 after previously-undisclosed testing of fingerprint evidence placed the informant who tipped off police at the crime scene.

In 2005, [Terry Ceasor](#) was sentenced to two to 15 years in prison for child abuse in St. Clair County, Michigan for injuring his girlfriend's toddler by shaking him. He was exonerated in 2021 by evidence that the boy's injuries were the result of an accidental fall.

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