

LENGTH OF SENTENCE

The sentences we impose in this country, in this state, and in Los Angeles County are far too long. Researchers have long noted the high cost, ineffectiveness, and harm to people and communities caused by lengthy prison sentences; sentences that are longer than those of any comparable nation. DA-elect Gascón campaigned on stopping the practice of imposing excessive sentences.

With regard to resentencing, the Model Penal Code recommends judicial resentencing hearings after 15 years of imprisonment for all convicted people:

The legislature shall authorize a judicial panel or other judicial decision maker to hear and rule upon applications for modification of sentence from prisoners who have served 15 years of any sentence of imprisonment.

(American Law Institute (2017) Model Penal Code Sentencing, Proposed Final Draft, p. 681.)

National parole experts Edward Rhine, the late Joan Petersilia, and Kevin Reitz have endorsed this recommendation, adding: “We would have no argument with a shorter period such as 10 years.” ... These time frames correspond with criminological research showing that people age out of crime, with most “criminal careers” typically lasting less than ten years.” (Rhine, E. E., Petersilia, J., & Reitz, R. 2017. “The Future of Parole Release,” pp. 279-338 in Tonry, M. (Ed.) *Crime and Justice*, Vol, 46, p. 294.)

Accordingly, this Office will reevaluate and consider for resentencing people who have already served 15 years in prison. Experts on post-conviction justice recommend that resentencing be allowed for all people (not just those convicted as children or as emerging adults) and some experts recommend an earlier date for reevaluating continued imprisonment.

APPLICATION OF SENTENCE ENHANCEMENT POLICY FOR OPEN/PENDING CASES

For any case that is currently pending, meaning that judgment has not yet been entered, or where the case is pending for resentencing, or on remand from another court, the Deputy District Attorney in charge of the case shall inform the Court at the next hearing of the following:

“At the direction of the Los Angeles County District Attorney, in accordance with Special Directive 20-08 concerning enhancements and allegations, and in the interest of justice, the People hereby

1. join in the Defendant’s motion to strike all alleged sentence enhancement(s); or
2. move to dismiss all alleged sentence enhancement(s) named in the information for all counts.