

What Really Happens When A Person Goes To Prison?

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Everyone has their ideas of what happens to a person when they go to prison. Some people think the inmates go to a dark, unclean place where they live in constant fear for their safety and are treated poorly by their fellow inmates and worse by prison staff. Some people think they go to a "Country Club" like facility and are given three square meals a day, watch television or play basketball all day without a care in the world. The truth is that neither extreme is accurate.

Prison in North Carolina isn't the Federal Prison portrayed in the movie GOODFELLAS where Paul Sorvino's "Paulie" cooked pasta and sauce from scratch.



Nor are our prisons like the savage environment of the television show OZ where stabbings, rapes and general mayhem were the norm.

The truth is found somewhere in the middle. My goal today is to give you a genuine quick overview of life in North Carolina's prisons. Generally our prisons are quiet, clean, orderly and provide inmates balanced nutritional opportunities. Inmates who are able bodied and of sound mind work or participate in Evidence Based, Recidivism Reducing programs or other positive occupiers of their time. Occasionally disorder surfaces, assaults do happen...on both staff and other inmates. There are instances of Undue Familiarity and contraband does enter our prisons. But for the most part, while these make the headlines, they are the exception rather than the rule.

So ask questions and remember, anything that we don't cover today, please contact me by phone at (919) 838 - 3610 or by email at shane.tharrington@ncdps.gov and ask away.

From the time the gavel falls until the offender is released, let's talk about.

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