



**JOHNNY MAHAFFEY LEVEL 2**

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I love it when I'm right. All these years of blogging about change coming to the South Carolina Department of Corrections, and bam, here it is.

I just got RECLASSIFIED today for my "custody" level.

Before, I was stuck forever as a LEVEL 3 MAXIMUM SECURITY, meaning I would be stuck here at one of the most dangerous prisons in the U.S., and nothing could change it. I would never go to a lower custody prison, work camp, work release, any of that.

It was one of those communistic rules put in place by the mid-1990s regime in charge of prisons back then. Their money-signed eyes wanted S.C. to become not a three-strike state, but a two. (In my case a one-strike); but, that's finally OVER. After the Lee Correctional Institution had a full-on massacre a few years back, triggered by mistreatment of prisoners by prisons, and gross oversentencing, a lot of secrets about the broken legal system came to light. The first step, was to rewrite the classification system.

I am now a LEVEL 2 MEDIUM CUSTODY

Staying out of trouble, getting college degrees, being a teacher, working a job as an accountant and writing computer programs, with a list way too long to put here of accomplishments -- has finally payed off. Now that my custody is lower, I can go to any other prison. I had my Classification Hearing today, and I was asked where I wanted to go. I am now eligible for the prison of my choice with less fences, and the access to go work a regular job that pays a regular rate, at or above minimum wage, like everyone else.

Change is good.

It's a step closer to me going home. We know that the next thing after the classification rewrite, is parole. And, when that change comes to fruition -- I will be ready.

As for my change, I will remain here and help train a replacement for me at work -- which is not easy, finding a computer savvy prisoner with accounting skills, who is honest -- and, after that, I will go upstate, and work a normal job. Of course, we are still under a full quarantine right now anyway, so ... there is that.

No transfers until the quarantine is lifted.

Still, this was a glorious day. A huge win.