

Understanding Prison Realignment and its Effects on San Marino

The Criminal Justice realignment Bill, known as AB 109, was signed into law by Governor Brown on April 5, 2011 and provisions of this bill took effect on October 1, 2011. It represents the most significant change to sentencing and corrections in our lifetime.

Realignment focuses on several aspects of criminal sentencing, punishment, and community supervision and certain offenders now are categorized as Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS), those convicted for various non-serious, non-violent, non-sex related offenses, "NONs".

Realignment is a shift of governmental responsibilities from state government to local government. Rather than being committed to state prison as in the past, criminal offenders convicted under the three NONS will now serve their sentences in county jails. The legislation also transferred the responsibility for supervising these offenders upon their release to local county jurisdiction- county probation departments rather than state parole. In addition counties will take over supervision of state parolees whose last offense was non-violent or non-sex offense, and low risk parole violators.

Other key components include a mandate that offenders be released to the counties where they lived when the crime was committed; and one that prevents them from being sent back to state prison for violation of their terms of supervision. Realignment also requires probation departments to utilize programs for the treatment and rehabilitation of these offenders.

Realignment mandates that probation departments perform the job of supervising these PRCS offenders similar to those already placed on probation. With AB 109, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is required to classify offenders only by the present committed offense. In other words, a person with a criminal history of violence or a serious criminal offense, but has a less serious current conviction, qualifies for local incarceration and probation supervision under AB 109. Also included within realignment was the reclassification of over 500 crimes which are now classified under 1170 (h) P.C and commonly known as the 3 non's.

A total of 1.2 billion dollars has been distributed to the 58 counties in California for realignment. The state hopes to save an estimated 450 million dollars in the first year of realignment and a total of 2 billion by October of 2015. In simple terms, realignment will take approximately one-third of the current prison population and realign them from state prison to our county jails and county probation officers IN Los Angeles County.

Current Status of Realignment

We find that California's crime rates increased between 2011 and 2012-Violent crime went up 3.4 percent and property crime went up 7.6 percent. These rates vary widely across the state, with California's ten largest counties generally seeing greater increases in crime than in the state overall. However, despite this pattern of increase, crime rates remain at historically low levels in California today. How does realignment relate to

the recent uptick in crime? The analysis of violent crime finds no evidence that realignment has had an effect on the most serious offenses, murder and rape. The evidence on robbery is more uncertain, with a possible indication of a modest increase related to realignment. California's overall increases in violent crime between 2011 and 2012 appear to be part of a broader upward trend also experienced in other states.

Since the inception of realignment in October 2011 approximately 18,000 prisoners have been released from state prison back to Los Angeles County. Today that population is just over 14,000 as over 3,500 have been released from supervision after adhering to the terms of their release for a minimum of one year. Los Angeles County Probation is responsible for supervising this population known as Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) or Post Supervised Person (PSP).

By contrast, we find robust evidence that realignment is related to increased property crime. In terms of overall property crime, we estimate an additional one to two property crimes per year on average for each offender who is not incarcerated as a result of realignment. In particular, we see substantial increases in the number of motor vehicle thefts, which went up by 14.8 percent between 2011 and 2012.

How Does This Affect San Marino

Property crimes have been on the rise in San Marino and in many of our neighboring communities. San Marino has experienced 60 residential burglaries in 2013, compared to 50 residential burglaries in 2012. Officers have responded to over 1,000 additional calls for service compared to 2012 responses. Arrests have increased by 30% thus far in 2013, compared to 2012 numbers. Clearly, the increase in crime effecting San Marino and our neighbors has had an impact on how San Marino Officers are servicing the community. Officers are contacting many suspicious persons and vehicles resulting in field interviews and in many cases arrests.

The San Marino Police Department is reminding the community during this holiday season to:

- Be aware that sometimes criminals will pose as couriers delivering gifts to case your home or to commit a crime immediately.
- Be aware of scams that criminals commit to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays.
- Be cautious about locking your windows and doors even when you leave the house for a short period of time.
- When you leave your home for extended holiday travel, have a neighbor or friend watch your home while you're away. Have them collect your mail and newspapers while you're gone.
- Place lights, radio, and television on timers so that your home appears occupied.
- Avoid having large displays of gifts visible from windows and doors.