

**Oregon Innocence Project**

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Oregon Innocence Project is a program of Oregon Justice Resource Center, a Portland-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Donations to Oregon Innocence Project through Oregon Justice Resource Center are tax-deductible.

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**The extraordinary number - and the shocking stories - of exonerations throughout our country show that our justice system does not always live up to its aim of punishing the guilty and clearing the innocent.**

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**The National Registry of Exonerations identifies nearly 2,000 people since 1989 who have been wrongfully convicted and later exonerated.**

**These are only the known cases. How many more innocent people are still in prison today? Some estimates put the rate of wrongful conviction as high as four percent.**

**Oregon is sadly not immune from the causes of wrongful convictions that are seen elsewhere. At least ten Oregonians have now been exonerated of serious crimes including murder according to the National Registry of Exonerations.**

Oregon Innocence Project is the only program of its kind in our state whose sole purpose is to actively track inmates' claims of innocence, investigate those claims, test DNA and other scientific evidence, and litigate when appropriate. We provide pro bono (free) assistance to individuals convicted in Oregon who are pursuing claims of innocence.

We do not only work on individual cases, but also seek to address the causes of wrongful convictions through reform. We drive change by working to persuade government to adopt better laws and policies. Additionally, we provide amicus assistance to cases presenting significant innocence issues.

Without a program in Oregon that focuses solely on wrongful convictions, there is no way of knowing how many of the thousands of people incarcerated here should in fact be freed.

**Why do wrongful convictions happen?**

There are many causes of wrongful convictions.

Some cases have more than one cause:

- Eyewitness misidentification
- False confessions or admissions
- Misconduct by law enforcement, prosecutors, or judges
- Unproven or improperly applied forensic science
- Misuse of informants
- Inadequate defense counsel

**How can you help?**

When you make a gift to Oregon Innocence Project, you become part of the only program solely focused on freeing wrongly convicted Oregonians.

Our goal is to work collaboratively with all stakeholders within the criminal justice system to build support for comprehensive reform.

Innocence cases may require thousands of hours of painstaking work as well as expensive forensic tests. Your gift will fund legal staff, investigators, and scientific testing.

**Your help is needed now to free the innocent and prevent future wrongful convictions.**