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## Innocence: List of Those Freed From Death Row

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### Criteria for inclusion in the innocence list:

DPIC uses the traditional objective criteria that have determined innocence since the founding of this country. In order to be included on the list, defendants must have been convicted and sentenced to death, and subsequently either:

- a) their conviction was overturned and they were acquitted at a re-trial, or all charges were dismissed; or
- b) they were given an absolute pardon by the governor based on new evidence of innocence.

For a fuller description of the criteria used in this list and the reasons why these criteria were chosen, see [Section V of DPIC's most recent Innocence Report](#).

The list includes cases in which the release occurred in 1973 or later.

**\*\*DNA**--DPIC refers to the **Innocence Project's** (Cardozo Law School, NY) criteria for whether a post-conviction exoneration was the result of DNA testing. They require that (a) DNA testing played a role in the defendant's reversal, and (b) the results of the testing were central to the inmate's defense and to the identity of the perpetrator.

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<b>NR*</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>RACE</b>	<b>CONVICTED</b>	<b>EXONERATED</b>	<b>YEARS BETWEEN</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>DNA **</b>
<b>1</b>	David Keaton	FL	B	1971	1973	2	Charges Dismissed	
<b>2</b>	Samuel A. Poole	NC	B	1973	1974	1	Charges Dismissed	
<b>3</b>	Wilbert Lee	FL	B	1963	1975	12	Pardoned	
<b>4</b>	Freddie Pitts	FL	B	1963	1975	12	Pardoned	
<b>5</b>	James Creamer	GA	W	1973	1975	2	Charges Dismissed	
<b>6</b>	Christopher Spicer	NC	B	1973	1975	2	Acquitted	
<b>7</b>	Thomas Gladish	NM	W	1974	1976	2	Charges Dismissed	
<b>8</b>	Richard Greer	NM	W	1974	1976	2	Charges Dismissed	
<b>9</b>	Ronald Keine	NM	W	1974	1976	2	Charges Dismissed	
<b>10</b>	Clarence Smith	NM	W	1974	1976	2	Charges Dismissed	
<b>11</b>	Delbert Tibbs	FL	B	1974	1977	3	Charges Dismissed	
<b>12</b>	Earl Charles	GA	B	1975	1978	3	Charges Dismissed	
<b>13</b>	Jonathan Treadway	AZ	W	1975	1978	3	Acquitted	
<b>14</b>	Gary Beeman	OH	W	1976	1979	3	Acquitted	
<b>15</b>	Jerry Banks	GA	B	1975	1980	5	Charges Dismissed	
<b>16</b>	Larry Hicks	IN	B	1978	1980	2	Acquitted	

<b>17</b>	Charles Ray Giddens	OK	B	1978	1981	3	Charges Dismissed	
<b>18</b>	Michael Linder	SC	W	1979	1981	2	Acquitted	
<b>19</b>	Johnny Ross	LA	B	1975	1981	6	Charges Dismissed	
<b>20</b>	Ernest (Shuhaa) Graham	CA	B	1976	1981	5	Acquitted	
<b>21</b>	Annibal Jaramillo	FL	L	1981	1982	1	Charges Dismissed	
<b>22</b>	Lawyer Johnson	MA	B	1971	1982	11	Charges Dismissed	
<b>23</b>	Larry Fisher	MS	W	1984	1985	1	Acquitted	
<b>24</b>	Anthony Brown	FL	B	1983	1986	3	Acquitted	
<b>25</b>	Neil Ferber	PA	W	1982	1986	4	Charges Dismissed	
<b>26</b>	Clifford Henry Bowen	OK	W	1981	1986	5	Charges Dismissed	
<b>27</b>	Joseph Green Brown	FL	B	1974	1987	13	Charges Dismissed	
<b>28</b>	Perry Cobb	IL	B	1979	1987	8	Acquitted	
<b>29</b>	Darby (Williams) Tillis	IL	B	1979	1987	8	Acquitted	
<b>30</b>	Vernon McManus	TX	W	1977	1987	10	Charges Dismissed	
<b>31</b>	Anthony Ray Peek	FL	B	1978	1987	9	Acquitted	
<b>32</b>	Juan Ramos	FL	L	1983	1987	4	Acquitted	

33	Robert Wallace	GA	B	1980	1987	7	Acquitted	
34	Richard Neal Jones	OK	W	1983	1987	4	Acquitted	
35	Willie Brown	FL	B	1983	1988	5	Charges Dismissed	
36	Larry Troy	FL	B	1983	1988	5	Charges Dismissed	
37	Randall Dale Adams	TX	W	1977	1989	12	Charges Dismissed	
38	Robert Cox	FL	W	1988	1989	1	Charges Dismissed	
39	Timothy Hennis	NC	W	1986	1989	3	Acquitted	
40	James Richardson	FL	B	1968	1989	21	Acquitted	
41	Clarence Brandley	TX	B	1981	1990	9	Charges Dismissed	
42	John C. Skelton	TX	W	1983	1990	7	Acquitted	
43	Dale Johnston	OH	W	1984	1990	6	Charges Dismissed	
44	Jimmy Lee Mathers	AZ	W	1987	1990	3	Acquitted	
45	Gary Nelson	GA	B	1980	1991	11	Charges Dismissed	
46	Bradley P. Scott	FL	W	1988	1991	3	Acquitted	
47	Charles Smith	IN	B	1983	1991	8	Acquitted	
48	Jay C. Smith	PA	W	1986	1992	6	Acquitted	

49	Kirk Bloodworth	MD	W	1984	1993	9	Charges Dismissed	Yes
50	Federico M. Macias	TX	L	1984	1993	9	Charges Dismissed	
51	Walter McMillian	AL	B	1988	1993	5	Charges Dismissed	
52	Gregory R. Wilhoit	OK	W	1987	1993	6	Acquitted	
53	James Robison	AZ	W	1977	1993	16	Acquitted	
54	Muneer Deeb	TX	O	1985	1993	8	Acquitted	
55	Andrew Golden	FL	W	1991	1994	3	Charges Dismissed	
56	Joseph Burrows	IL	W	1989	1994	5	Charges Dismissed	
57	Adolph Munson	OK	B	1985	1995	10	Acquitted	
58	Robert Charles Cruz	AZ	L	1981	1995	14	Acquitted	
59	Rolando Cruz	IL	L	1985	1995	10	Acquitted	Yes
60	Alejandro Hernandez	IL	L	1985	1995	10	Charges Dismissed	Yes
61	Sabrina Butler	MS	B	1990	1995	5	Acquitted	
62	Verneal Jimerson	IL	B	1985	1996	11	Charges Dismissed	Yes
63	Dennis Williams	IL	B	1979	1996	17	Charges Dismissed	Yes
64	Roberto Miranda	NV	L	1982	1996	14	Charges Dismissed	

65	Gary Gauger	IL	W	1993	1996	3	Charges Dismissed	
66	Troy Lee Jones	CA	B	1982	1996	14	Charges Dismissed	
67	Carl Lawson	IL	B	1990	1996	6	Acquitted	
68	David Wayne Grannis	AZ	W	1991	1996	5	Charges Dismissed	
69	Ricardo Aldape Guerra	TX	L	1982	1997	15	Charges Dismissed	
70	Benjamin Harris	WA	B	1985	1997	12	Charges Dismissed	
71	Robert Hayes	FL	B	1991	1997	6	Acquitted	
72	Christopher McCrimmon	AZ	B	1993	1997	4	Acquitted	
73	Randall Padgett	AL	W	1992	1997	5	Acquitted	
74	James Bo Cochran	AL	B	1976	1997	21	Acquitted	
75	Robert Lee Miller, Jr.	OK	B	1988	1998	10	Charges Dismissed	Yes
76	Curtis Kyles	LA	B	1984	1998	14	Charges Dismissed	
77	Shareef Cousin	LA	B	1996	1999	3	Charges Dismissed	
78	Anthony Porter	IL	B	1983	1999	16	Charges Dismissed	
79	Steven Smith	IL	B	1985	1999	14	Acquitted	
80	Ronald Williamson	OK	W	1988	1999	11	Charges Dismissed	Yes

81	Ronald Jones	IL	B	1989	1999	10	Charges Dismissed	Yes
82	Clarence Dexter, Jr.	MO	W	1991	1999	8	Charges Dismissed	
83	Warren Douglas Manning	SC	B	1989	1999	10	Acquitted	
84	Alfred Rivera	NC	L	1997	1999	2	Charges Dismissed	
85	Steve Manning	IL	W	1993	2000	7	Charges Dismissed	
86	Eric Clemmons	MO	B	1987	2000	13	Acquitted	
87	Joseph Nahume Green	FL	B	1993	2000	7	Charges Dismissed	
88	Earl Washington	VA	B	1984	2000	16	Pardoned	Yes
89	William Nieves	PA	L	1994	2000	6	Acquitted	
90	Frank Lee Smith ** died prior to exoneration	FL	B	1986	2000 **	14	Charges Dismissed	Yes
91	Michael Graham	LA	W	1987	2000	13	Charges Dismissed	
92	Albert Burrell	LA	W	1987	2000	13	Charges Dismissed	
93	Oscar Lee Morris	CA	B	1983	2000	17	Charges Dismissed	
94	Peter Limone	MA	W	1968	2001	33	Charges Dismissed	
95	Gary Drinkard	AL	W	1995	2001	6	Charges Dismissed	

<b>96</b>	Joaquin Jose Martinez	FL	L	1997	2001	4	Acquitted	
<b>97</b>	Jeremy Sheets	NE	W	1997	2001	4	Charges Dismissed	
<b>98</b>	Charles Fain	ID	W	1983	2001	18	Charges Dismissed	Yes
<b>99</b>	Juan Roberto Melendez	FL	L	1984	2002	18	Charges Dismissed	
<b>100</b>	Ray Krone	AZ	W	1992	2002	10	Charges Dismissed	Yes
<b>101</b>	Thomas Kimbell, Jr.	PA	W	1998	2002	4	Acquitted	
<b>102</b>	Larry Osborne	KY	W	1999	2002	3	Charges Dismissed	
<b>103</b>	Aaron Patterson	IL	B	1986	2003	17	Pardoned	
<b>104</b>	Madison Hobley	IL	B	1987	2003	16	Pardoned	
<b>105</b>	Leroy Orange	IL	B	1984	2003	19	Pardoned	
<b>106</b>	Stanley Howard	IL	B	1987	2003	16	Pardoned	
<b>107</b>	Rudolph Holton	FL	B	1986	2003	16	Charges Dismissed	
<b>108</b>	Lemuel Prion	AZ	W	1999	2003	4	Charges Dismissed	
<b>109</b>	Wesley Quick	AL	W	1997	2003	6	Acquitted	
<b>110</b>	John Thompson	LA	B	1985	2003	18	Acquitted	
	Timothy						Charges	



111	Howard	OH	B	1976	2003	26	Dismissed	
112	Gary Lamar James	OH	B	1976	2003	26	Charges Dismissed	
113	Joseph Amrine	MO	B	1986	2003	17	Charges Dismissed	
114	Nicholas Yarris	PA	W	1982	2003	21	Charges Dismissed	Yes
115	Alan Gell	NC	W	1998	2004	6	Acquitted	
116	Gordon Steidl	IL	W	1987	2004	17	Charges Dismissed	
117	Laurence Adams	MA	B	1974	2004	30	Charges Dismissed	
118	Dan L. Bright	LA	B	1996	2004	8	Charges Dismissed	
119	Ryan Matthews	LA	B	1999	2004	5	Charges Dismissed	Yes
120	Ernest Ray Willis	TX	W	1987	2004	17	Charges Dismissed	
121	Derrick Jamison	OH	B	1985	2005	20	Charges Dismissed	
122	Harold Wilson	PA	B	1989	2005	16	Acquitted	
123	John Ballard	FL	W	2003	2006	3	Acquitted	

**Average number of years between being sentenced to death and exoneration: 9.2 years**

**Number of cases in which DNA played a substantial factor in establishing innocence: 14**

**\*\*DPIC** refers to the **Innocence Project's** (Cardozo Law School, NY) criteria for whether a post-conviction exoneration was the result of DNA testing. They require that (a) DNA testing played a role in the defendant's reversal, and (b) the results of the testing were central to the inmate's defense and to the identity of the perpetrator.

\*The list is ordered by the year of the inmate's release. Occasionally new cases of earlier releases are discovered. Thus, the number assigned to a person above may differ from his or her number in various published DPIC reports.

DPIC uses a number of resources when adding cases to the above list, including court opinions, media coverage, and conversations with those directly involved in the cases. The earlier cases in the list are based heavily on the research of Hugo Adam Bedau and Michael L. Radelet. (See, e.g., Hugo Bedau and Michael Radelet, "Miscarriages of justice in potentially capital cases," 40 Stanford Law Review 21 (1987); M.Radelet, H. Bedau, and C. Putnam, "In Spite of Innocence," Northeastern University Press (1992); see also M. Radelet et al., "Prisoners released from death rows since 1970 because of doubts about their guilt," 13 Thomas M. Cooley Law Review 907 (1996)).

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For specific information about each case, see [Cases of Innocence](#)  
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