

North Carolina Members of the General Assembly Information

Senate Members Contact List:

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House Members Contact List:

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Members/ContactInfo/H>

General Phone Line:

(919) 733-4111

Message To Send:

Dear Senator or House Member, I am writing to you because I am petitioning the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission's records policy regarding the commission's investigations into a convicted man or woman's claim of innocence. I am a listener of CounterClock Podcast and became aware of how the commission handled its investigation into the case of Clifton Eugene Spencer, a man convicted after accepting a no contest plea of second-degree murder in 1991 in North Carolina. It is my assessment that members of the North Carolina General Assembly need to work to reform the stringent case confidentiality policies of the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission. I take issue with the fact that the commission's investigative findings in a case are not made available upon request if the commission chooses not to present that case to the three judge panel for a hearing. The only case information available in public record at the office of a superior court clerk or made available to a district attorney is for cases that commission staff recommend to a three judge panel. Cases that do not make it that far are closed without explanation and no entity can know what the findings were. (Commission's Governing Statute: N.C.G.S 15A-1468(a-m)). There are currently only 18 cases on the commission's website that have information available in the public record. As of June 2020, the commission reports staff has received 2,849 claims of innocence. Of those, staff has closed 2,787 cases. The commission reports only 12 exonerations since its creation by the NC General Assembly in 2006. Please consider this message a demand for reform.

Additional Contacts

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