



PROFILE OF

CORNELIUS CORTEZ COPELAND

Full Name	CORNELIUS CORTEZ COPELAND
Prisoner Number	313560
D.O.B.	December 17, 1981
Crime(s) Convicted Of	First Degree Murder
Date of Crime	March 11, 1998
Conviction Date	May, 2000
Age at Time Crime was Committed	16-years-old
Age at Time Entered Prison	18-years-old

Brief description of offense and prisoner's role in it.

First degree murder, and only person charged.

What difficulties have you experienced as a juvenile living among adult prisoners?

When I first came down, some prisoners ran into my room and tried to take some of my stuff. I was fighting one while the other one took some of my things. They got scared they would get caught because of the noise so they ran out.

How have your difficulties experienced as a juvenile living among adult prisoners negatively affected you?

It's sad, because I see older guys taking advantage of younger guys because the younger guys believe they need protection so the older guys protect them but the younger guys have to pay them or do sexual favors. Or the older guy takes care of the young guy because he don't have nobody to do it. If they family don't send them money they sell their body.

How have you resolved these difficulties or dealt with them?

It's not much you can do for the next person. And when it come to you, you just have to stay away from problems and certain people.

How has a life of incarceration changed you?

I grew up in prison. I've found myself. I know who I am. I'm now educated. I have got my G.E.D. I learn how to read and write. I learn about life situations and how to think for myself. I learn how to be myself. And not let other people influence the way I think. I'm a spiritual person now. Being incarcerated will allow you to change your life around but the main focus is, a person can only change if that individual person is ready to change for change.

Have you remained in continual contact with family or friends since becoming incarcerated?

Yes! Family is still a big part of my life, especially my mother. Some friends have left but when you change so do your friends.

What would you do if granted a second chance and released?

I would help my mother with her business, go back to school and start a family. I would like to talk to young kids, be a mentor and start foundations, write books.

Accomplishments/Achievements since you've been incarcerated.

I got my G.E.D., food tech classes. Try for college classes, most of all I'm a changed person.

Make any statement you'd like (100 words or less, please).

I understand people will judge us for the wrong doing and misguided mistakes that we have made in the past. Words can not express how sorry I am for all the pain I cause for both sides. I would give anything to take it back but since I can't I can only learn from my mistakes and move forward. I'm not the same person I was 11 years ago and without this website how will anybody ever know? I made a bad mistake when I was 16 and I'm paying for it. But I do know that juvenile lifers do deserve a second chance at life.