

# ||| WE ARE ALL ||| ||| CRIMINALS |||

One in four people in the U.S. has a criminal record.  
**This is the other 75%.**

Participants in We Are All Criminals tell stories of crimes they got away with. The stories range from humorous to humbling, but all have one thing in common: they are privately held memories without public stigma. Each shows that often times the only thing separating *clean* from *criminal* is who gets caught.

**PRIVATE MEMORY:  
I'M AN ATTORNEY  
AND I'VE ENDANGERED MY  
CHILD**



Up until a few years ago, I was still driving drunk. I knew what I was doing was wrong and how stupid it was. For example, one night after four tallboys, I drove my little girl home in a car with a broken taillight, right through an area heavy with police presence. Two weeks later on the same stretch, I was pulled over for the taillight -- but this time, I was sober.

I still mind-trip over that: **it's just pure luck that I wasn't stopped the night I'd been drinking. If I had been, they probably would have taken my daughter from me.**

**PUBLIC RECORD: A CHILD REMEMBERS HER FATHER'S INCARCERATION.**

**6:** the number of years I spent with my father before he was arrested.

**674:** the number of miles between Detroit and Sandstone, MN, where my papi was sentenced to 15 years. It took my family one year to save enough money to move those 674 miles to be close to him.

**44:** how many miles we traveled each weekend to visit my papi. During those visits, we would talk about how he was going to stay away from what took him from us.

**2006:** the year my papi came home. I was so happy we were a family again. It didn't hurt that now I could sleep in on the weekend like a normal kid.

My father started looking for work 3 weeks after he was released. I remember because I was there: filling out the applications and driving him to drop them off. We never heard from any of them.

It was during this time I started noticing people around me acting differently. They weren't as friendly to me as they were before. My friends couldn't come to my house, moms and dads who used to cheer me on in track and basketball now seemed reluctant to speak to me.

**91:** the number of days after my papi was released before we moved to search for employment.

**7:** how many days after the move when my mom was hired at Family Dollar; my papi was denied.

**90:** the number of days after my mom's first day at work when she got a 10 cent raise; my papi had spent countless hours looking for employment but was still unemployed. I started to see his frustration as a father and man: he wasn't able to help us with the bills.

-- Felipa, a former intern with We Are All Criminals, shared her story. You can watch Felipa share her life's data [here](#).

*In particular during this holiday season, our thoughts and hearts are with the countless families defined, confined and ripped apart by the juvenile and criminal justice systems and by the collateral consequences of criminal records.*

**ON THE DOCKET:**

||| Human Rights Symposium |||  
St. Paul, MN  
12.10

||| Lynnhurst Congregational UCC |||  
Minneapolis, MN  
Talk 1.4; Exhibit 1.4 – 2.1

||| Fredrikson + Byron |||  
Minneapolis, MN  
1.13

||| Mediation + Restorative Services |||  
New Hope, MN  
1.15

||| Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission |||  
Minneapolis, MN  
1.26

**IN THE NEWS: CHILDREN WITH  
INCARCERATED PARENTS**

Mass incarceration has left so many children parentless that the first result of a Google search on "children with incarcerated parents" is a [Sesame Street](#) link. [In fact](#), a majority of state and federal prisoners are also parents, leaving more than 1.7 million American children (that's 1 in 50 kids in the U.S., and more than 1 in 15 African America youth) with at least one parent behind bars. Faced with the trauma and stress of parental incarceration, children are at such an increased risk of alcohol and drug abuse, dropping out of school, and aggressive and delinquent behaviors that international human rights activists [have called](#) parental incarceration the "greatest threat to child well-being in the U.S."

Help mitigate these risks by using [resource packets](#) compiled by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and supporting organizations such as [Celebrate Kids!](#) that work with children of incarcerated parents.

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READ THE FULL STORY AND GET INVOLVED AT: [www.weareallcriminals.org](http://www.weareallcriminals.org)

