

Meet Antoine Anderson

Antoine Anderson worked to rehabilitate his life every day and has rightfully earned his earned sentence credits. Mr. Anderson has served time in both the federal and state prison system, transferring to VDOC upon completion of his federal sentence in 2013. Throughout his incarceration, Mr. Anderson has proactively taken steps to rehabilitate himself, including completing drug treatment programs, anger management, parenting classes, commercial driver training, and obtaining a certificate for umpiring baseball. While in VDOC custody, Mr. Anderson earned his credits through steady employment, lack of disciplinary infractions, and affirmative steps to learn and improve himself. He is currently completing his GED and has signed up to take a small engine repair class. He regularly attends church services and maintains close relationships with his daughter, his 83-year-old father who is in failing health, and his fiancée.

Because of the steps he took to rehabilitate his life and show he could be a productive citizen, VDOC let Mr. Anderson's fiancée know in March that he had earned his release, set for July or August of 2022, and began working with her to ensure a smooth reentry transition. At the same time, VDOC staff actively worked with Mr. Anderson on his home plan, completing pre-release medical screenings and obtaining a Virginia identification card from the Department of Motor Vehicles, which he received on July 5.

More importantly, Mr. Anderson and his family had made plans – plans to drive a daughter, who he has not seen outside of prison walls, to college, plans to see his father, who has cancer, before it's too late, and plans to take a trip with his fiancée. All those plans were dashed when the Governor sent down a budget amendment, the General Assembly approved it, and VDOC officials misinterpreted it in a way that made Mr. Anderson ineligible for his promised release.

On June 18, 2022, Mr. Anderson was told that he would not, in fact, be released during the summer of 2022 "because of a change made by the Governor." Mr. Anderson called his daughter on Father's Day to tell her that he would not be coming home and could not take her to start college. Now, instead of being released in July or August of 2022, Mr. Anderson will remain in prison for an additional 22 months.

Mr. Anderson was 27 years old when he was arrested in 2004. He is now 45 years old and has changed and matured during his more than 18 years of incarceration. He looks forward to his release from prison so that he can prove that he is not the same person he was twenty years ago, and that he can be a productive member of society and a good father and husband.

