## Choices



This is something I feel I must write. I do it with a measure of sorrow and it is not my intent to judge anyone or express anger or hatred toward anyone. It is more an expression of grief at how far down the path of inhumanity I feel we have traveled. Please just read it to the end and think about it.

The National Geographic Society did a multi-year study of jails and prisons and prison life. Made for television, one series is called "Lockdown" and another "Hard Time". It is a very interesting series and study in people, their choices and consequences.

One episode I watched recently I found particularly troubling. I cannot remember the exact dialog and words used but the story (a true one) is about a young lady in jail as a repeat offender for use of heroin. Because of her record for multiple arrests for drug addiction and heroin use she is awaiting trial to determine if she is facing serious prison time or a possible court supervised rehabilitation program, sort of a half-way house environment (?) as explained in the program.

She is pregnant and the father of the baby is also in jail on similar charges. In her dialog she expresses some feelings of happiness and joy at the thought of the coming baby and also some thoughts of terminating the pregnancy.

She is excited when she hears that she might be a candidate for the supervised program on the "outside". Her day in court comes and she appears before the judge.

The judge tells her that she (the judge) is inclined to put her into the "outside" program but that under the law, with her past history of drug abuse, the judge cannot put her into the program because with her drug record she is likely to re-offend and the drugs she would take could be a risk to the life of the baby she is carrying. However, if she should decide to not be pregnant [sic], she would no longer present this risk to her unborn baby and could qualify for the program.

Excuse me. Read that again.

Are there no other choices? Is this the only options our legal system has left the judge with? Is this what our social engineering has descended to?