

## Home Background Report

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| <b>Concerning:</b>      | <b>George Brown</b><br>DOB xx/xx/xx 42years |
| <b>Current Address</b>  | HMP Where-ever                              |
| <b>Proposed Address</b> | 21 Cloister Close<br>Midtown                |
| <b>Report Writer</b>    | Supervising Officer                         |
| <b>Report Due</b>       | xx/xx/xx                                    |
| <b>Date of Report:</b>  | xx/xx/xx                                    |

## **Basis of Report**

This report is based on my knowledge of Mr Brown and his family throughout his sentence, involvement in sentence planning and reviews, statutory annual visits to Mr Brown and his family, discussion with the prison social worker and personal officer, one visit to the family at home and to Mr Brown at HMP Where-ever, access to relevant documentation including the note of circumstances, recent reports and risk assessment information.

## **Current Circumstances**

**Mr Brown has completed 3 years and 4 months of his 7 year sentence. He has completed the Alcohol Awareness Course, Relationship and Parenting Skills Courses and has obtained a Certificate in Horticulture. Mr Brown has also spent a brief period in the Joinery Workshop that confirmed he would be unable to return to his previous employment on a full time basis. He is presently employed as a prison cleaner and therefore has some freedom of movement within the prison grounds.**

## **Background Information**

**Mr Brown originates from Midtown and is one of a family of two sons. He enjoyed a stable childhood and has good relationships with his parents and brother who write to him and visit regularly.**

Mr Brown has been married for 16 years. He and his wife have two sons aged 13 and 15 years. The family were experiencing extreme financial difficulties at the time of Mr Browns' offence. He had been unemployed for two years. The family used their savings to pay the mortgage for the first nine months of his unemployment and then received a proportion of the interest payments from the Benefits Agency, meaning that they continued to accrue arrears toward the mortgage. Following Mr Browns' conviction and discussion with the lender Mrs Brown decided to sell the family home in order to clear the payment arrears. She was fortunate in obtaining a 50% share of a Housing Association property in a convenient location. The property is a three bedroom ground floor flat with a pleasant shared garden and Mrs Brown and her sons are very pleased with their new home. This decision was very difficult for Mr Brown who had been paying his mortgage for 16 years and had the view that "something would turn up". Around that time the prison social worker arranged for special visits with Mr and Mrs Brown and the supervising officer. It was clear that communication between the couple was poor. Mrs Brown had not expressed her anger toward her husband about his offending behaviour and aggression toward herself. She was able to explain that she was considering divorce. She understood how upset he had been at losing his job but he had then virtually cut himself off from her and the children, also failing to deal with their financial problems and neglected to obtain treatment for his persistent pain. Mrs Brown also stated that she would not be prepared to tolerate such behaviour in the future. Mr Brown the felt that he had "lost everything" however over the next three meetings he was able to express his feeling more openly and the couple agreed they would try to stay together. Mr Brown also accepted that the sale of the house was the best option as the arrears would be considerable by the end of his sentence.

Mrs Brown has completed training as an enrolled nurse and is employed full time at a local day hospital. Mr Browns' parents help with child care after school. Mrs Brown is proud of her achievements and appears much more self assured than when I first had contact with her.

Both Mr and Mrs Brown realise that while they look forward to living together again their family situation has changed and will require time to adjust. The couple feel that they benefited from joint work and have said they will co-operate with further work on their relationship if necessary.

Mr Browns' sons are both doing well at school and have few behavioural problems. Both expect that their dad will spend time doing things with them i.e. football and fishing.

### **Plans on Release**

Mr Brown plans to return to live with his wife and children on his release. He appears realistic about the adjustments he will require to make to the changes in his family including the fact that his wife now works full time and his children are now adolescents. The treatment Mr Brown received during his sentence for his hand injury has caused considerable improvement and he will be able to seek work on his release. He understands that he will be unable to return to work as a full time joiner, but hopes he may be able to use his skills to train young people. In the light of the nature of his offence he will require expert advice as to the feasibility of this plan and has agreed to attend APEX for employment counselling. Mr Brown is also aware that his alcohol abuse was a factor in his offending behaviour. He has agreed that he would be willing to attend the SACRO alcohol education programme should this prove to be necessary. Mr Browns' offence was extremely violent and while he is assessed as a low risk of re-offending he is also assessed as capable of inflicting extreme harm. He has not had an opportunity to undertake an Anger Management Programme during his sentence and it is my opinion that the supervising officer should continuously monitor whether this is necessary.

### **Conclusion**

Mr Brown has acknowledged his responsibility for his offence and has co-operated with his supervising officer throughout his sentence in developing and adhering to an action plan devised to address his offending behaviour. He feels he has benefited from social work contact and is willing to co-operate with supervision on release. Should it be considered that Mr Brown is suitable for parole then it is my view that he would benefit from the addition of the following additional conditions to his parole licence.

- That he receive careers counselling from APEX
- That he complete an Alcohol Education Course as instructed by his supervising officer.
- That he complete an Anger Management Course as instructed by his supervising officer

### **Supervising Officer**