GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order 2020-03

Emphasizing the Role of the Department of Corrections in Rehabilitation and Reentry

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections plays a vital role in public safety by ensuring that individuals who have been remanded to its custody are held in a safe, secure and humane environment; and

WHEREAS, approximately 95% of individuals held in state prisons will eventually be released back into the community after having completed their sentence; and

WHEREAS, individuals who have served their time and paid their debt to society deserve a real second chance to turn their lives around; and

WHEREAS, lowering the recidivism rate benefits the former inmates, the community, and the taxpayers by reducing costs in the corrections system; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that education programs, job training programs, and substance abuse treatment provided in correctional settings reduce recidivism rates; and

WHEREAS, many individuals who are released from custody face significant barriers to obtaining employment and housing, including lack of in-demand job skills, lack of a high school degree, substance abuse disorder and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections is tasked with providing rehabilitation to adult offenders at the state level and thereby plays a vital role in addressing these barriers and preparing inmates to successfully reenter society; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections has embraced this role by establishing and expanding Second Chance Centers, which have provided thousands of individuals with job training, interview skills and connections with prospective employers before release; and

WHEREAS, the Department will continue to expand programs that contribute to rehabilitation, including Second Chance Centers, educational programs and substance abuse counseling; and

WHEREAS, the role of rehabilitation is no less important to public safety than other functions of the Department as prisoner rehabilitation has a direct link to reducing the crime rate;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona, hereby order as follows:

1. Henceforth, the Arizona Department of Corrections shall be referred to as the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry (the "Department").
2. The Department shall amend its policies and procedures as appropriate to emphasize its role in and commitment to expanding rehabilitation services and its reentry programs.
3. The Department shall set up a process to annually review evidence and data from successful rehabilitation and reentry programs across the country to continually improve programs operated by the Department.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 13th day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Year Two Hundred and Forty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State