

Denise Liccioli

From: Nellie Wesley [nellie.wesley@nautaaq.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2007 11:29 AM
To: Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Public Comment - AK Rural Justice

Please accept this as a comment to the Rural Justice department...

Rural Alaska is in dire need of public safety in the field of policing. Our community in Noatak went without a VPSO for many years even while KANA in Kodiak is advertising the position for several years now. We have couple locals that want the job but because of their background check they don't qualify for the position, even what happened in their past was almost 20 years ago and their lives are changed and alcohol free today. Can that background check be cleared after so many years?

You know, people CAN change, but yet we keep their records for the rest of their lives, many if not all of us go thru times in life we are not proud of one time or another, but a lot of us realize the need to change/quit drinking or other substance abuse etc. and do so, but unfortunately there are people stuck with records that stay for the rest of their lives, when changes are made like quitting drinking - the root of their problems or crimes they did while under the influence of alcohol.

Another note on that matter, when children (ICWA children) are displaced from their parents, and the grandparents want to take the children, but someone have a felony record in the household from many years back while under the influence of alcohol, same situation like the above they don't qualify to take their own grandchildren, when in fact they made a positive change and quit alcohol. Someone need to look into that situation and try to clear people's names after a period of time and not keep their criminal records for LIFE when they want to make a difference in their families or their communities (like taking grandchildren or patrolling and taking on the duties of policing).

Thank you for your consideration and taking comments from your constituents.

Respectfully,

N. Carol Wesley,
Noatak Resident
PO Box 54
Noatak, AK 99761
Phone: (907) 485-2173