

Interview Guide

Residents at Gemeinschaft

Biographical Information

1. Name
2. Date of Birth, place of birth
3. Place of last residence before Gemeinschaft Home
4. Family: parents, siblings, spouse, children; ages
5. Highest completed education level
6. Job
7. What crime were you charged with?
8. What was the sentence passed to you?
9. Where was your time served?
10. How much of your sentence did you serve?
11. How did you come to be placed in Gemeinschaft's program? Choice or court ordered
12. How long have you been in the program? Start date
13. When is your expected release?

Gemeinschaft's Program

1. Can you describe the basic outline of the program?
2. What are the rules?
3. What are the consequences or disciplinary results of breaking any rules?
4. What are the different stages of the program?
5. How do you move up to a higher stage?
6. What are the house meetings about and how are they run? How often?
7. What stage of the program are you in?
8. Have you had any set backs?
9. What are some pros and cons of the program?
10. What would you change about the program if you could? Or add to it?

Daily Life

1. What is your daily life like? Your schedule?
2. What is your job in the community?
 - how many hours do you work a week
 - how many days
3. How did you gain this position?
4. Do you enjoy the line of work?
5. How are finances handled?
 - how much do you get paid
 - how do you save money
 - how do you pay for any bills
 - how much freedom do you have to your earnings
6. How do you pay for the program?

7. What is your level of interactions with other residents?
8. What are your living arrangements like? Your bedroom and such?
9. Any problems or untold events that occur here that happen with out the administration knowing?
10. How do the house meetings work:
 - what do you get out of it
 - are they an annoyance or a source of help and guidance
 - what would you change or add to the house meetings if you could
 - what if you do not want to participate in the house meetings
 - are there any topics that are not allowed to be discussed
11. What do you do with your free time?
12. How are meals worked here?
13. Can you go out to eat?
14. How much a part of the community do you consider yourself?
15. What is your level of freedom in and out of the house?

Life in Jail

1. How was your overall experience in jail?
2. What were the conditions of the jail? Clean? Fair?
3. What are some misconceptions that Americans have about our jail system?
4. Any comments or stories about the workers or administration of the jail?
5. What got you through the day while serving time?
6. What freedoms did you have there? Hobbies? Interests?
7. What is your most memorable experience that you had while serving?
8. Could you be sent back if you do not finish this program? How do you feel about that?

Free Thought/Problems/Reflection

1. What are some things you have heard some people complain about with the program?
2. What would you change about the living conditions?
3. Any overall comments on the criminal justice system?
4. Any interesting stories on any topics I might have skipped over?
5. I did a tour here once and it occurred to me that having people come in and out of here might distract or upset you. Do you have any feelings on people not in the program coming in here?
6. To go off of that point, how do you regard being interviewed today?
7. If you could leave a message behind about a person going through the rehabilitation back into society for others to hear and understand, what would you say?