

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE and COLLEGE STUDENTS



## MEASURING THE INMATE CODE

Criminologists James Garofalo and Richard Clark developed an inmate subculture scale that measured the adherence of jail inmates to the inmate subculture. The scale includes five scenarios and asks inmates about their reactions to the scenarios. Read the scenarios below and determine how you, in your role as a college student, might respond to the scenario. Next, determine how you think incarcerated offenders might be expected to respond. What are the similarities and differences between how you might respond and how offenders might respond?

Item 1: Two inmates are planning an escape. They threaten a third inmate, Jones, with a beating unless he steals a wire cutter for them from the place he is assigned to work. Jones thinks they mean business. He gets the wire cutter, but is caught trying to smuggle it into his cell. If he doesn't describe the whole situation, he will probably be charged with an escape attempt. He can avoid this by blaming the other two inmates. What should Jones do?

- A. Clear himself by telling about the escape plans of the other two inmates
- B. Keep quiet and face the consequences
- C. Don't know/No opinion

Item 2: Smith and Long are friends in the same jail. Smith has some cash that was smuggled into the jail by a visitor. Smith tells Long that he thinks the guards are suspicious of him, and he asks Long to hide the cash for a few days. How do you personally feel about Long's hiding the money?

- A. Strongly approve
- B. Approve
- C. Disapprove
- D. Strongly disapprove
- E. Don't know/No opinion

Item 3: Johnson knows that two guys are threatening to beat up another guy, Martin, because Martin won't help them cover up their gambling operation in the jail. Martin is afraid to tell anyone. Johnson has an opportunity to pass this information on to a guard without anyone else finding out. What should Johnson do?

- A. Tell the guard about Martin's problem
- B. Mind his own business and keep quiet
- C. Don't know/No opinion

Item 4: Hill is awaiting trial on a burglary charge. Another guy in the jail tells Hill that he knows a lawyer who can almost certainly get him off without a prison sentence. In return for putting Hill in contact with this lawyer, the other guy wants Hill to help him smuggle some pills into the jail. Hill believes that, without this lawyer, he will probably get a prison sentence on the burglary charge. What should Hill do?

- A. Accept the other guy's bargain
- B. Reject the offer so he can avoid the risk of being caught smuggling pills
- C. Don't know/No opinion

\*Item 5: If you were being hassled by some other guy being held here, how would you handle it?

- A. Retreat/avoid
- B. Tell guard
- C. Talk it out
- D. Fight
- E. Handle by self
- F. Depends on situation
- G. Other
- H. Don't know/No opinion

\*Item 5 eliminated from final subcultural scale.

Source: Reprinted from Garofalo, J., & Clark, R. D. (1985). The inmate subculture in jails. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 12(4), 415-434, p. 417.