

## **Effects of eugenic sterilization as practiced in California ... The Human betterment foundation, Pasadena, California**

### **EFFECTS OF EUGENIC STERILIZATION AS PRACTICED IN CALIFORNIA**

1. One effect only—it prevents parenthood.
2. It in no way or degree unsexes the patient.
3. It in no way impairs the health of the patient.
4. It is a protection, not a punishment; therefore carries no stigma or humiliation.
5. Patients and their families are among the best friends of sterilization. They know by experience what its protection means to them.
6. It is approved by the medical staffs, social workers, probation and parole officers, who have come in contact with the patients before and after the operation.
7. It permits many patients to return to their homes who would otherwise be confined in institutions for years. It thus prevents the break-up of families.
8. It prevents the birth of children who would probably have a bad heredity, who could not be cared for properly, by their parents, and who would be likely to become state charges.
9. It releases sterilized patients from confinement in state institutions, and leaves room for other waiting patients; thus increasing the efficient care for more defectives without increasing the cost to the tax-payer.
10. It has not increased sex offenses; on the contrary, sterilized patients in California, for various reasons, chiefly educational discipline, show a great improvement over their former record of sex delinquency.
11. It enables many handicapped persons to marry and to have a life normal in most respects, whose marriage without sterilization would be unwise if not disastrous.
12. Conservatively and sympathetically administered, it is a practical, humane, and necessary step to prevent race deterioration.



NOTE: California has had in effect since 1909, a sterilization law applying only to inmates of state institutions. Up to January 1, 1937, the state had sterilized under this law, 11,484 patients (5933 men, and 5551 women). The Human Betterment Foundation has, for the past eleven years, been making an intensive study of the results to the patient, the family, and the community. For further details write—

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Gefft Foundation July 23, 1938

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