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The private sector profiteering from punishment raises moral questions about the very existence of these centers.

A primary concern that leaves one to judge private prisons, is their for-profit operations that birthed a prominent scandal that will forever taint the intentions of private prison owners: “Kids-for-Cash”. The “Kids-for-Cash” scandal was the acceptance of over two million dollars, by two Pennsylvania judges, from a for-profit juvenile detention facility and sentencing juvenile offenders to private facilities in exchange for those payments (*Eisen, 2018*). Essentially, prison and court officials were exploiting children by privately incarcerating them as a means to secure wealth in this monopoly that the private prison system has become. This alone is a textbook example of why private prisons are problematic, being that, this type of financial incentive is not necessarily prominent in public prisons. Though budget limitations and financial incentives are present in all prisons, public prisons do not exist solely to generate profit and they, therefore, do not have as much motive to house as many inmates as capacity will allow in the same manner that private prisons do. The act of privately incarcerating offenders is morally impermissible as it constitutes for a capitalist scheme that bids off of helpless individuals, and accumulates wealth for the shareholders and executives that invest in this business (*Eisen, 2018*).

With their investors in mind, private prisons maintain a lack in transparency, to avoid allegations of misconduct or corruption within the facility, and to keep secure in their contracts. As a matter of fact, private prisons ensure their operations are disclosed from society because Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, laws do not apply to them (*Bozelko, 2017*). This act allows any individual to request information on prisons that are operated by the government. Things like prisoner demographics, violent incidents, and prison budgets are all obtainable by the public through this act (*Park, 2017*). Though private prisons house federal inmates, they are conveniently exempt from the federal laws that would enable the publicizing of such facilities.

This is favorable for private prisons, yet another prominent concern that drives the consecutive critiques of private prisons because it is easy for misconduct and corruption to often go overlooked. Inmates are subjected to abuse, by prison authorities and other inmates, in both public and private prisons. However, private prisons become problematic when the abuse is easy

to conceal from society, especially from government officials and those responsible for holding disorderly prison authorities accountable. The lack of accountability is the driving force in a

Works Cited

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