

WV REENTRY GUIDE

WHAT TO DO LEADING UP TO & AFTER RELEASE FROM JAIL/PRISON

PREPARING FOR RELEASE

- Learn about the release process and make a release plan for:
 - transportation from jail or prison
 - taking your property with you
 - clothing for your release
- Keep a folder with all release paperwork and documents

IMPORTANT TOOLS FOR SUCCESSFUL REENTRY

- Get a library card
- Get a public transportation card (not sure what the system is in WV)
- Get a cell phone and phone number and set up your voicemail
- Get a postal mailing address
- Create an email address

LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS

- Make sure your criminal record is accurate
- Seal your criminal record if you are eligible
- Learn about your legal rights when seeking a job, applying for an occupational license, and looking for housing

PROBATION, PAROLE, AND SUPERVISED RELEASE

- Find out what type of supervision you are on and know your conditions of release and supervision
- Report to supervision
- Obtain contact information for your community supervision officer
- Establish rapport and maintain contact with your community supervision officer
- Refrain from drug use and obey all laws
- Maintain verifiable housing
- Maintain verifiable employment
- Report for scheduled office visits and drug testing

IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AND PERSONAL RECORDS

- Keep your photo ID and all release paperwork
- Get a driver's license or non-driver identification card
- Apply for a US passport
- Request military discharge papers
- Obtain arrest, jail, and court records
- Obtain education records from your time in prison
- Obtain social security card
- Obtain birth certificate

TRANSPORTATION

- Look for subsidies for public transportation
- Use public transportation
- Consider rideshare options

HOUSING

- Identify housing options:
 - Connect with family and friends
 - Look into pre-release transfer to a halfway house or home confinement
 - Look into day programs and drop-in centers, shelters, transitional shelters, single room occupancy, supportive housing
 - Consider public vs affordable vs private housing options
- Learn about utility assistance and internet services (LIHEAP)

FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND LEGAL RIGHTS

- Learn about child custody and visitation
 - Submit motion to modify your current custody agreement
- Find out if you owe child support
 - Suspend or modify child support
- File for divorce
 - Get support to get out of unhealthy relationships

HEALTHCARE

- Learn about health insurance options
 - Medicaid - income based
 - Medicare - If you are over 65 years of age or receiving Social Security Disability Insurance payments
- Learn about accessing healthcare without insurance - Community Health Clinics/Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Find out how you will get any medications you've been receiving
- Learn about cost differences between emergency and clinic care
- Find support for healing from trauma
- Find behavioral health support for mental health and/or substance use

PUBLIC BENEFITS

- Apply for Social Security Disability Benefits (SSI/SSDI)
- Apply for Interim Disability Assistance (IDA)
- Apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Apply for WV WORKS (West Virginia's TANF)
- Apply for the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC)
- Resume Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits

EMPLOYMENT

- Prepare for the job market
 - Collect necessary identification
 - Prepare a resume
 - Know your legal rights in regards to employment
 - Learn about technology in the workplace
- Consider an apprenticeship, job training program, higher education, or entrepreneurship
- Learn about the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Federal Bonding

EDUCATION

- Learn about educational opportunities:
 - Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Workforce Development
 - High School Diploma, GED, NEPD
 - Trade Schools, Apprenticeships, and College
 - Jobs and Hope

VOTING AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- Register to vote (different processes if you're incarcerated vs in the community)

FINANCES

- Open a bank account
- Check your credit score
- Apply for a credit card
- Find out what fines and fees you may still owe to the court (either through your supervision officer or by contacting the clerk of the court)

GUNS, SEX OFFENDER, AND OTHER REGISTRIES

- Know your rights about gun ownership
- If applicable, register for sex offender or child abuse registries



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