# 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

### 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

### 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)

### 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

### 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
### 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

### 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)

### 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)

### 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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For a web-based version of this list with resource links included, please visit [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/REENTRYCH](HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/REENTRYCH)

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