TRANSITION HANDBOOK

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TRANSFORMATION & TRANSITION

www.TandTproject.org

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INTRODUCTION

The Transformation & Transition Project is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to helping returning citizens successfully transition into their new life. We are based in Columbia, SC and focus on the services and opportunities available to returning citizens in the Midlands, but we partner with like-minded organizations around the state. Our work is fueled by the following convictions:

- Successful transition requires genuine transformation (real change from the inside out) and connection to positive community.
- Following Jesus Christ provides a path to transformation for everyone, not just returning citizens.
- A healthy church is the ideal community to welcome and walk with a returning citizen on his/her journey of transition.
- Returning citizens can be a valuable part of our communities and often bring a wealth
 of experience, compassion, and dedication to helping others.

Though biblical principles are woven throughout our material, there is much of practical value even for those who chose not to follow Jesus. We gladly offer our services to all returning citizens regardless of their religious background.

This handbook is written specifically to returning citizens who are still incarcerated but are preparing for release. That's who we are referring to when we use the pronoun "you." With that in mind, we emphasize the plans that can be made and the steps taken before release. We've chosen to leave some information out because there are things that will need to be handled in person after release and others that are best accessed online. Nevertheless, this handbook still contains information beneficial to returning citizens after release and to mentors, friends, or family members helping returning citizens along their transition journey.

This handbook is grouped into sections by topic. Some organizations offer multiple services and will appear in multiple sections. Some sections have forms or other pertinent enclosures. As of the date of publications, the forms and enclosures are current, but they might have changed by the time you use them. Whenever possible, verify that you have the most current form.

This handbook is designed to help you develop a solid transition plan, carry it out step by step, and connect with the many resources available to you. Remember, you are not alone! There are many of us in the community who want you to succeed. The information in this handbook can change the course of your life, but only if you put in the effort to use it. So read the handbook. Follow it. Ask questions. Get help if you need to fill out forms or understand certain sections. Don't be intimidated by the amount of information or work ahead of you, and don't give up. Tackle one small piece at a time.

God be with you!

SMART Goals

"If you fail to plan, then you are planning to fail."

Your transition to a new life will not be successful without a plan. The first step in developing a good plan is setting SMART goals. There should be goals for what you want to **become** and what you want to **accomplish**. Write them down! Review them often and update them as required. Also remember that an ultimate destination may require intermediate goals along the way. Here are the basic elements of SMART goals.

Specific - Avoid broad, general statements. Be as focused and specific as possible.

- Not Specific: I'm going to get in shape.
- Specific: I'm going to run a mile in under 8 minutes.

Measurable – Choose goals where you can measure completion and progress. This usually means that the goal has to include a number or percentage.

- Not measurable: I'm going to improve my credit score.
- Measurable: I'm going to improve my credit score to above 700.

Achievable – Don't select impressive goals that can't be realistically achieved. Stick to goals that are challenging but within the realm of possibility given the resources you have.

- Not achievable: I'm going to buy my own Olive Garden restaurant my first year out.
- Achievable: My brother and I will start our own food truck business my first year out.

<u>Relevant</u> – Keep in mind your ultimate objective or destination. Choose goals that support that objective and don't hinder it. Example: Let's say my ultimate objective is to be a good father to my 12-yr old daughter.

- Not relevant: Buy her a new cell phone. (Does that really make me a better father?)
- Relevant: Commit to being at every one of her track meets this season.

<u>Time-bound</u> – SMART goals aren't open-ended. There must be a specific timeframe to complete them in. If the goal isn't met within that timeframe, it hasn't been met.

- Not time-bound: I'm going to save \$5,000 for a down payment on a car.
- Time-bound: I'll save \$5,000 for a car down payment within 12 months of my release.

Here's an example of a goal that meets all the SMART criteria:

I'm going to earn my CDL within 90 days of my release so that I can get a full-time truck driving job with benefits within 6 months of release.

Transition Checklist

The following checklist will help you keep track of the things that you need to do prior to and shortly after your release. They also provide a framework for your transition plan.

1. DIRECTION
Before developing a plan, you have to clearly define your destination. What do you intend to ultimately accomplish? What do you intend to become? Refer to the SMART Goals sheet.
☐ SMART goals written down
Identity goals written downDOCUMENTATION & IDENTIFICATION
You will need the following forms of identification to do many essential things (set up a bank
account, get a job, get a phone, drive a vehicle, etc.). Get this done first.
Birth Certificate (original)
☐ Social Security Card (original)☐ Driver's License or State ID
☐ VA benefit card (if applicable)
Register for Selective Service
 EMPLOYMENT After your release, you will need to earn a living for yourself and your family. While you may
have to initially get any reasonable job just to pay the bills, we urge you to work toward a career
that uses your skills, talents and interests. List skills
Document work & training experience
Develop list of potential references
Set SMART career goals
☐ Create Resumé ☐ Free of spelling/grammar errors & proofread by someone else
Saved on computer and printed copies
Get copy of your Criminal Background Check
☐ Job applications submitted
 ☐ Federal Bonding Voucher / Work Opportunity Tax Credit (as applicable) ☐ Training / Certification / Education plan
4. FINANCES
Once you have an idea of income, you can set up a budget and determine how much you
can afford for transportation, housing, food, and other essentials. If you have debt, you'll also need to develop a plan for paying it off.
Set up Bank Account
Check Credit score
□ Create Budget

5. PLAN FOR ESSENTIALS

With an income and a budget, you know how much you can afford for various essentials. Within those limits, where will you live? How will you get around? Where will you get food and clothing initially? These may include short-term plans (like transitional housing) that will change after you get established and your income increases. Plan for housing
6. PERSONAL CARE
As you work through meeting your immediate, external needs (food, shelter, clothing, etc.), you need to also consider your longer-term and internal needs. Health care is a necessity for everyone, and many of us need mental health or addiction recovery services as well. Set up Health Insurance / Health Care Mental Health Services (as required) Substance Abuse / Addiction Recovery (as required)
7. CONNECTION
As the old saying goes, "no man is an island." You are not an isolated individual, and your process of transformation and transition must include others. Though it may be uncomfortable at first, make it a priority to seek mentors, positive role models, and others for wisdom and accountability. Get plugged into discipleship classes or community groups. Those connections with others will largely determine if you succeed or fail in this process. Relationships (individuals) Cut off toxic relationships Repair broken relationships Build positive relationships
Community (groups)
Sever ties with negative community(ies)Identify positive community(ies)Integrate into positive community(ies)

8. RESPONSE TO GOD

The God who created you and gave you life has extended an invitation to you to be forgiven, set free from sin, and adopted into His family. How you respond to God is the most critical choice that you will make in life. It will determine both your direction in this life and your destination for all eternity. Everyone chooses. Either to deny His existence, to run from Him, to rebel against Him, or to accept His invitation and follow Him. Even avoiding the question is a choice. What is yours? Refer to "Becoming a Follower of Jesus Christ" document at the end of this handbook.

ONE STOP SHOPS

There are several local organizations that have years of experience helping returning citizens and others in transition. They offer many different services and can connect you to a wide variety of resources. You can often get more done in a single visit to one of these organizations than you would in a week of running around or researching things on your own.

SC Thrive

SC Thrive is a statewide nonprofit organization that offers solutions to South Carolinians in need of resources but facing barriers. They meet people where they are in life and help to move them toward self-sustainability. They focus on food security, health care resources and financial wellness trainings through work supports such as SNAP, Medicaid and free tax filing. SC Thrive connects people to resources. With the assistance of a SC Thrive Benefits Counselor, returning citizens can apply for nearly all services and resources from a personized Thrive Hub account.

2211 Alpine Road Ext. Phone: (803) 726-8774
Columbia, SC 29223 Website: www.scthrive.org

Alston Wilkes Society

Alston Wilkes is a nonprofit organization that has been around since 1962 and offers a wide variety of services to justice involved individuals, veterans, and at-risk youth.

3519 Medical Drive Phone: (803) 799-2490

Columbia, SC 29203 Website: https://www.alstonwilkessociety.org

United Way

United Way's 211 website has links to an incredible number of resources throughout the state including food, housing, clothing, transportation, legal, education, employment, mental health, health care, senior services, veterans, homeless, inmate & reentry services, and much more. Searches can be narrowed down by location (city or zip code), or by topic.

Website: https://sc211.org

Christ Central Ministries

Christ Central Ministries began as a cooperation of a number of local churches in the Columbia area focused on meeting the needs of the community. Over the years it has grown and expanded to offer many services to those in need. Contact them or stop by to see all the ways in which they can help.

1711 Pendleton Street Phone: (803) 600-5803

Columbia, SC 29201 Website: https://www.christcentralministries.org

IDENTIFICATION

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Since you will need your birth certificate to get a government-issued picture ID, make sure that you do this first. In most cases, you can take care of this while still behind bars. If a family member has your birth certificate, have them mail it to you or be prepared to get it to you immediately upon release. If your birth certificate has been lost, there are still a couple of ways that you can obtain a copy. SC Thrive can help you apply for this through the Thrive Hub.

- 1. If you were **not** born in South Carolina, you can go through an online company called VitalChek. The cost is \$27.50 and you'll need someone you can trust on the outside to submit the application for you online (www.vitalchek.com). You'll also require some kind of picture ID to verify your identity. Specific requirements differ from state to state.
- 2. If you were born in SC, you can fill out the application included in the following pages and mail it to the address below. The cost is \$12 and you'll still need to submit some kind of picture ID. The list of accepted options is included in the application. Applications that are mailed in typically take 2-4 weeks to process. If you have someone on the outside who can turn your application in to the DHEC office in person, they should be able to receive the birth certificate back in less than an hour.

DHEC Vital Records 2600 Bull St. Columbia, SC 29201

PICTURE ID

As soon as you are released, get a government-issued picture ID. This will be required for almost everything you do after that including applying for benefits, applying for jobs, getting health care, renting an apartment, opening a bank account, and many others. This picture ID can be a driver's license or a South Carolina State ID. Both of these are issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and use the same application form.

- 1. <u>Driver's License</u>. The basic fee for obtaining a driver's license is \$25. Additionally, you'll need the following:
 - a) Knowledge test (if you haven't had a license before) Cost is \$2.
 - b) Skills test/road test (drive in a car with a DMV examiner)
 - c) Vision test (can be done at the DMV)
 - d) Application form 447-NC filled out (included in this section)
 - e) Birth certificate
 - f) Verification of address (physical address, not PO Box)

*If your license was suspended, there's a \$100 reinstatement fee for each suspension. If you owe more than \$300, you may be eligible for a payment plan.

- 2. <u>State ID card</u>. There are no tests required and no fee for the State ID card. Requirements:
 - a) Birth Certificate
 - b) Verification of physical address (not PO Box)
 - c) Application 447-NC form filled out (included in this section)

See <u>www.scdmvonline.com</u> for more details.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

Another form of ID that you'll need to get a job, set up a bank account, and do many other things is your Social Security Card. If your card has been lost along the way, you can order a replacement card through the mail or physically go to the Social Security Administration office downtown and get it there. You will need:

- a) Your birth certificate
- b) A government-issued ID (State ID, driver's license, SCDC ID, passport, etc.)

Fill out the application form included in this section and submit it along with the documents above to:

The Social Security Administration 1835 Assembly Street Columbia, SC 29201

VETERAN OR VETERAN HEALTH ID CARD

If you are a U.S. military veteran with an honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions, you are eligible for a veteran ID card. This can serve as a government-issued ID card and provide you with discounts at many restaurants or other venues. A veteran ID card can only be applied for online. Find out more at https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/. You will need the following:

- a) Your social security number
- b) Your DD-214 showing the type of discharge you received
- c) A current, valid picture ID (like driver's license or state ID)
- d) A digital color photo of you from the shoulders up

If you are a military veteran, you may be eligible for VA health care. Once enrolled in VA health care, you will receive a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC). This card grants to access to VA facilities and services, serves as a government-issued picture ID, and also grants you access to veteran discounts by restaurants, businesses, and stores. Factors that determine your eligibility for VA health benefits include when and where you served, whether you have any service-related conditions or injuries, and your income. More details can be found at https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/ and the application form is on p. 40 of this handbook.



Vital Records Birth Application

A photocopy of a current government, school or employer photo identification of the applicant must be submitted with all requests.

Applications without proper identification will be returned unprocessed.

Name of applicant:		Day phone	number:
Address:			
City:	State:	Z	lip code:
Email address:			
Note: Mail from Vital Records will not be	forwarded by the USPS.		
Address certificate to be mailed to if d	lifferent than applicant's addre	ess:	
Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip code:
Your relationship to person named on	the certificate. (Check one - w	rill be used to determine entitlement)	
SelfLegal Guardia	n Legal representa	ative (for whom?)	
Parent Other (specify	y)		
For what purpose are you requesting	this certificate?		
By signing this application, I understa	and that making a false applica	ation for a vital record is a <u>felony</u> u	nder state law.
Signature of applicant:			
INFORMATION FOR BIRTH CERTIFICA	ATE BEING REQUESTED:		
Full name:	ACLE		0.00
Date of birth: S			Suffix
	•	•	א טוונוו
Name of mother/parent <u>prior to first marri</u>	iage:	Middle	Last
Name of father/parent prior to first marria	ige:		
Mother/parent state or foreign country of	First birth:	Middle Father/parent state or foreign co	Last Duntry of birth:
		umber of children born in SC to this m	•
Were parents married at time of birth:			otner/parent?
Name at birth if ever changed for any rea	ason other than mamage.		
SEARCH FEE: A \$12 "search fee" is required cludes one (1) certification, if record is low requests are a money order or cashier's	cated. Additional copies purchas	sed at the same time are \$3 each. Acc	ceptable methods of payment for mail
Required Search Fee (Non-refundable, In Each additional copy	ncludes one copy if found)		
			Total fees submitted:
Send completed application to: SC I Along with completed application, be	•		

Vital Records Application for Birth Certificates Instructions and Information

Information

BIRTHS – SC Law did not require the filing of birth records until January 01, 1915. Birth records on file at SC DHEC are not available for public viewing.

A birth record becomes public record one hundred (100) years after the date of birth. Non-certified copies of public birth records are issued unless a certified copy is specifically requested. The \$12 "search fee" is required for each request of a public birth record.

TURNAROUND TIME – The usual turn around time for 'waiting' on-site customers is approximately thirty (30) minutes, excluding amendments, during non-peak hours (8:30 am - 11:00 am and 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm). The usual turn around time for "mail" requests, excluding amendments, is approximately 2 - 4 weeks from the date of receipt.

If it has been more than four (4) weeks since you submitted your request, excluding amendments, call (803) 898 3630 to determine the status.

IDENTIFICATION – A valid/current government, school or employer issued photo identification document of the <u>applicant</u> is required before a search of the records will be conducted. Requests that do not contain proper identification will be returned unprocessed. Acceptable documents are:

- 1. Any United States' DMV Office issued picture identification i.e. Driver's License, ID card, Learner's Permit (unexpired)
- 2. Current school or employer picture identification card
- 3. Military card (unexpired active duty or retired member)
- 4. United States Passport (unexpired)
- 5 Foreign Passport (unexpired)
- 6. Re-Entry Permit (I-327 unexpired)
- 7. Refuge Travel Document (form I-571 unexpired)
- 8. United States Citizen Identification Card (form I-197)
- 9. Temporary Resident Card (form I-688 unexpired)
- 10. Permanent Resident Card (form I-551 unexpired)
- 11. Weapon or gun permit issued by federal, state or municipal government (unexpired)

Website – www.dhec.sc.gov/vr provides additional information on SC Vital Records.

PAYMENT – Acceptable methods of payment for mail requests are a money order or cashier's check made payable to SC DHEC. Onsite customer service also accepts credit and debit cards and cash.

SEARCH FEE – A \$12 "search fee" is required by SC Law Section 44-63-110. **The \$12 search fee is non-refundable.** The required search fee includes one (1) certification, if record is located. Additional copies, of the same record ordered at the same time, are \$3 each.



South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles

Instructions on Completing an Application for a Beginner's Permit, Driver's License or Identification Card (Non-Commercial)

447-NC (IS) (Rev. 06/2021)

Form 447-NC is used to enter personal data into the SCDMV system in order to create an SC state issued card. The class license defines the type of vehicle(s) you are allowed to operate.

- <u>Class D</u> license permits you to operate non-commercial passenger vehicles, such as cars and trucks, which do not exceed 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.
- <u>Class E</u> license permits you to operate non-commercial, single unit vehicles that exceed 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight such as a truck or motor home.
- <u>Class F</u> license permits you to operate non-commercial, combination vehicles that exceed 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

All of the class licenses listed above may also operate mopeds and three-wheel vehicles (excluding two-wheel motorcycles with side cars)

- <u>Class G</u> license permits you to only operate mopeds as defined by SC Code Section 56-1-1710.
- <u>Class M</u> license permits you to operate two-wheel motorcycles, two-wheel motorcycles with a detachable side car, three-wheel vehicles and mopeds.

Form 447-NC is a legal document to be completed in its entirety. Please follow these instructions when completing the form.

STEP 1 - Check the box for the type of card you want (BP, ID, DL, or moped). Also, check yes if you want it to be a REAL ID card or no if you want it to be a standard card.

STEP 2 - Personal Information

- Enter your **beginner's permit, driver's license or identification card number** as seen on the SC card if you currently hold one. If applying for an original SC card, leave this field blank and the Customer Service Representative (CSR) will complete it.
- Enter your customer number, if known. If not known the CSR will enter it.
- Enter your current legal name in this order: last name, first name, and middle name.
- If applicable, enter your suffix. All suffixes except for "Sr" must have supporting documents.
- Enter your current residence address. It cannot be a Post Office Box. This is the address that the SCDMV will send mail to unless a
 specified special or temporary mailing address is on file.
- Enter your *current phone number*, and enter your current email address.
- Enter your social security number exactly as it appears on your social security card.
- Enter your date of birth exactly as it appears on the birth certificate as month-day-year.
- Enter your *height* as feet and inches, and enter your *weight* in pounds.
- Enter your eye color: black, blue, brown, dichromatic (two different eye colors), gray, green, hazel, maroon, pink, or unknown.
- Enter your *race*
- Check the appropriate box to indicate whether you are a *male* or a *female*.

Optional - Add or delete special or temporary mailing address

- Enter a Special Mailing Address if you want us to send mail to an address other than your residence.
- Mark the **Yes** box to delete a current special mailing address that is now on file.
- Enter a *Temporary Mailing Address* and expiration date if you want us to send mail to a location other than your residence.
- Mark the **Yes** box to delete a current temporary mailing address that is now on file.
- Enter the Expiration Date for the temporary mailing address, if applicable.

STEP 3 – Optional designations

Check each appropriate box and provide the required documentation if you want your record to indicate that you are medically diagnosed with autism; and/or if you want your card to designate that you are a Veteran and/or Hearing Impaired. Veterans must provide one of the following documents:

- DD-214 that shows a characterization of service or discharge status of "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions"; or
- NGB Form 22 that shows a status listed above and establishes the qualifying military service of at least twenty years in the National Guard;
- Letter from a Military Reserve component notifying the recipient of the person's eligibility for retirement pay at age sixty (twenty-year letter); or
- Veteran Identification Card (VIC). However, a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) is not an acceptable document

STEP 4 - Opportunity to Donate Organs and Tissue (optional)

Check **YES** if you want a heart symbol placed on your card designating your desire to be an organ and tissue donor and/or to make a monetary donation to Donate Life SC. <u>IMPORTANT</u>: If you are currently registered as an organ and tissue donor you must check "YES" to have the red heart reprinted on your license.

STEP 5 - Opportunity to Register to Vote or update voter registration address

Check the box that describes your decision in regards to registering to **vote**. In order to vote you must be a US citizen and meet age requirements to complete an SCDMV Voter Registration Application.

STEP 6 - Questions (If applying for an identification card, only complete questions 1 thru 4)

Check Yes or No to questions 1 thru 12. These questions pertain to residency, existing licenses, and medical conditions.

STEP 7 - Automobile Insurance (Do not complete if applying for an identification card)

Check the statement about insurance that applies to you if applying for a driver's license.

STEP 8 - Consent for Minor

If you are under the age of 18, an authorized adult must complete the Consent for Minor Form (447-CM) when applying for an original beginner's permit or driver's license, or when adding a waiver to a Special Restricted license.

STEP 9 - Certification

As the applicant, you must read the statement, then print your name, sign and enter date of application.



South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles

Application for Beginner's Permit, Driver's License, or Identification Card

Complete this form for Non-Commercial Class Licenses or Permits: D, E, F, G, or M Commercial Customers must complete Form 447-CDL for Class A, B, or C Licenses or Permits

447-NC (Rev. 06/2021)

South Carolina and federal law dictates that motor vehicle and driver's license records maintained by the SCDMV may be disclosed in certain situations. For further details on the disclosure of personal information and the types of information disclosed, go to the SCDMV website www.scdmvonline.com/Privacy.

STE	P 1 - TY	PE OF CARD			our non-co license hold											
A. V	Vhat typ	oe of card d	o you want	? (Check	one) 🗌 E	eginne	r's Perr	mit	☐ Driv	er's L	icense [☐ Ide	entification	on Card	□ N	loped
В. [o you v	want it to be	a REAL ID	card? (C	Check one)	Yes	1 🗌	No								
	dŏcum	select Yes, yo nents required fo	or a REAL ID	on Forms M	V-93 for US c	itizens or	Form M	1V-94	for internati	ional ci	ustomers.					
	the wo	select No and ords NOT FOR o not currently h y, date and plac	FEDERAL ID nave a valid S	ENTIFICATI C card or yo	ION printed å u are not a U	cross the S citizen.	fron't of Referer	it. Yo nce th	ou must also ne documen	o vist a ts requ	nn SCDMV of uired for a sta	fice an ndard	d provide card (one	the require proof of ac	d doci	uments if
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SIE	r Z - IDE	MIFICATION														
		Last Nar	me			Fi	rst Nam	ne				Middl	e Name		Sı	ıffix
Resi	dence Ad	ddress (Must b	e your curre	nt address (of residence	and can	not be a	a P.C	D. Box)					County		
Citv	or Town			State	Zip Code		Phone	e Nui	mber		Email Ad	ldress				
							()								
Soc	cial Secu	rity Number* (SSN)	Date of	I f Birth		Height	<u></u>	Weight	E	<u>I</u> Eye Color		Race	G	ende	r
		·	Monti		Year	Feet	Inches	S			<u>, </u>			Male		Female
* You	ır Social S	ecurity number is	s required for t	he purposes	of identifying y	ou and n	reparing	iurv li	sts nursuant	to Sou	th Carolina Co	nde of i	aws Sect	ions 56-1-90		
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OPTIONAL			•													
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	Oity oi	101111		Otato	Zip oodo		Ocum	- 9			mailing a					☐ Yes
		On my card	Autisti		rovide a sta			u are	e medically	⁄ diagr	nosed with	autisn	n from a	physician	who i	s
STE	3 -	I wish to be designated	☐ Hearin		ed to practic d - Must coi			tion	for the H	earing	n Impaired	SCD	MV form	RG-004A		
OPT		as being:		n - Must p	rovide DD-	214 that	indicat	es y	ou were ho							able
			☐ docum	ents listed	on the 447-	NC info	rmation	she	et.							
STE	P 4 - OR	GAN AND TIS	SUE	YES	, I want to b	e an orga	an and t	tissue	e donor							
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		or Statement - If														
undei	the age of	niform Anatomica f 18, the legal gua	ardian of the dor	nor shall make	e the final decis	ion regard	ling the do	onatio	n.				_			
lf	you chang	e your decision to	authorize in th	e future or wis	sh to be remove	ed from the	e ŠC Orga	an and	d Tissue Don	or Regis	stry, you can g	online	to www.D	onateLifeSC.	org or o	contact
		at 1-87-PASS-IT- SCDMV will asse														
		TER REGISTR			you want to											
		(check one)		* Mu	st be a US (Citizen ar	nd meet		uirements to	o com	plete an SC	DMV \	oter Reg	gistration A		
		sh to register			_			d +~ ·			ot wish to r	_			. مطط.	
<u>''</u>	vo, i am	not eligible to	register to v	/ote. ∐	No , I am alı	eady re	gistered	u to v	vote and d	o not	wish to upd	ate m	y voter r	egistration	addr	ess.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY NOTICE SC Code Section 23-3-460 states that a person who has been <u>convicted</u> anywhere of an offense listed in 23-3-430 must register

with the county sheriff within 3 days of establishing residency in South Carolina. A copy of the Sex Offender Registry Law is available upon request

(www.scstateńouse.gov/code/t23c003.php).

STEP 6 - QUESTIONS 1 through 12 MUST be answered for permits and licenses	Only answer questions 1 - 4 for an identification card
Are you a resident of South Carolina?	Yes No
2. Are you a citizen of the United States?	
3. Do you now have or have you ever had a South Carolina identification card, begin license? If yes, give the number and name if different from number and name give	
4. Do you now have or have you ever had an identification card, beginner's permit, d	Nriver's license, or moned license from
another state or country? If yes, list information from last time issued. State/Cour License Numberand Issue Date_	ntry Yes No
Is your beginner's permit, driver's license, moped license, or privilege to drive sus in any state? If yes, where? when last?	Yes No
6. Have you recently surrendered your beginner's permit, driver's license, or moped officer? If yes, when?Reason	YesNo
7. In the past 12 months, have you experienced a loss of consciousness, muscular	control or seizure?
8. In the past six months, have you experienced a heart attack or heart surgery?	
9. Have you had a stroke and not recovered sufficiently to safely operate a motor ve	
10. Are you a habitual user of alcohol or any other drug to a degree which prevents you this time?	
11. Do you have any mental or physical condition preventing you from safely operatin If yes, please list condition(s):	
12. Has your doctor recommended you not drive or placed restrictions on your driving lf yes, what are the restrictions?	at this time?
STEP 7 - AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE INFORMATION Check and complete the state	ement that applies to you.
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I am insured with the following insur	
throughout the issuance period. COMPANY NAME: No motor vehicle required to be registered in South Carolina is owned by me	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
The CCDMV Consent for Miner Form (AA7 CM) must be a	ampleted for all quetomore under the age of 10 who are applying
STEP 8 - CONSENT FOR MINOR for an original beginner's permit or driver's license; or add	completed for all customers under the age of 18 who are applying ling a waiver. An emancipated minor must also submit one of the
following as proof of emancipation (Only the original or ce	
☐ Court Order	☐ Certificate of Marriage ☐ Active Military Orders
STEP 9 - CERTIFICATION I certify under penalty of perjury that all information and stateme	ents made in this application are true and correct as of the date of
this application. I also certify that I do not have a valid driver's license other than the one(s) reported	ed in questions #3 and #4 above and that my privilege to operate a
motor vehicle is not now or subject to be suspended, cancelled, revoked or disqualified at the time	
I understand that I am receiving an SC credential based on the information provided on this appunderstand that if my privilege to drive is ever suspended, cancelled or revoked in SC or any other	olication, and that the Scowy will verify all information. I also restate, my SC license will be revoked until I have met all
reinstatement requirements in SC and any other states.	cate, my co nochec niii go refered a niii mate met an
Customer's Printed Name Customer's Signature	Date
FOR THE SCDMV USE ONL	y
Exchanging Out-of-State Permit for a SC Permit or License State:	OOS BP/DL NO.:
Qualifies for a REAL ID Card Yes No Comments:	OUS BP/DL NO
Type: ☐ Duplicate ☐ Modified ☐ Original ☐ Provisional ☐ Re-exam ☐ Reissue ☐ Renew	val
	trictions:
Identification Submitted: ☐ Birth Certificate ☐ Passport/Visa ☐ SSN ☐ Proof of Residency	
Knowledge Test Results	
Date: Passed Failed Score: Date: Passed Failed Score:	Hearing Impaired:
Date: Passed Failed Score:	Missing Extremities: No Yes:
Date: Passed Failed Score:	Vision Right Left Both
Date: Passed Failed Score:	With corrective lens 20/ 20/ 20/
Skills Test Results	Without corrective lens 20/ 20/ 20/
Date:Passed	Office Number:
Date: Passed Failed Comments:	Employee Signature:
Date: Passed Failed Comments:	

OMB No. 0960-0066

Application for a Social Security Card

Applying for a Social Security Card is free!USE THIS APPLICATION TO:

- Apply for an original Social Security card
- Apply for a replacement Social Security card
- Change or correct information on your Social Security number record

IMPORTANT: You MUST provide a properly completed application and the required evidence before we can process your application. We can only accept original documents or documents certified by the custodian of the original record. Notarized copies or photocopies which have not been certified by the custodian of the record are not acceptable. We will return any documents submitted with your application. For assistance call us at 1-800-772-1213 or visit our website at **www.socialsecurity.gov**.

Original Social Security Card

To apply for an original card, you must provide at least two documents to prove age, identity, and U.S. citizenship or current lawful, work-authorized immigration status. If you are not a U.S. citizen and do not have DHS work authorization, you must prove that you have a valid non-work reason for requesting a card. See page 2 for an explanation of acceptable documents.

NOTE: If you are age 12 or older and have never received a Social Security number, you must apply in person.

Replacement Social Security Card

To apply for a replacement card, you must provide one document to prove your identity. If you were born outside the U.S., you must also provide documents to prove your U.S. citizenship or current, lawful, work-authorized status. See page 2 for an explanation of acceptable documents.

Changing Information on Your Social Security Record

To change the information on your Social Security number record (i.e., a name or citizenship change, or corrected date of birth) you must provide documents to prove your identity, support the requested change, and establish the reason for the change. For example, you may provide a birth certificate to show your correct date of birth. A document supporting a name change must be recent and identify you by both your old and new names. If the name change event occurred over two years ago or if the name change document does not have enough information to prove your identity, you must also provide documents to prove your identity in your prior name and/or in some cases your new legal name. If you were born outside the U.S. you must provide a document to prove your U.S. citizenship or current lawful, work-authorized status. See page 2 for an explanation of acceptable documents.

LIMITS ON REPLACEMENT SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

Public Law 108-458 limits the number of replacement Social Security cards you may receive to 3 per calendar year and 10 in a lifetime. Cards issued to reflect changes to your legal name or changes to a work authorization legend do not count toward these limits. We may also grant exceptions to these limits if you provide evidence from an official source to establish that a Social Security card is required.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about this form or about the evidence documents you must provide, please visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov for additional information as well as locations of our offices and Social Security Card Centers. You may also call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. You can also find your nearest office or Card Center in your local phone book.

Form **SS-5** (10-2021) UF Page 2 of 5

EVIDENCE DOCUMENTS

The following lists are examples of the types of documents you must provide with your application and are not all inclusive. Call us at 1-800-772-1213 if you cannot provide these documents.

IMPORTANT: If you are completing this application on behalf of someone else, you must provide evidence that shows your authority to sign the application as well as documents to prove your identity and the identity of the person for whom you are filing the application. We can only accept original documents or documents certified by the custodian of the original record. Notarized copies or photocopies which have not been certified by the custodian of the record are not acceptable.

Evidence of Age

In general, you must provide your birth certificate. In some situations, we may accept another document that shows your age. Some of the other documents we may accept are:

- U.S. hospital record of your birth (created at the time of birth)
- Religious record established before age five showing your age or date of birth
- Passport
- Final Adoption Decree (the adoption decree must show that the birth information was taken from the original birth certificate)

Evidence of Identity

You must provide current, unexpired evidence of identity in your legal name. Your legal name will be shown on the Social Security card. Generally, we prefer to see documents issued in the U.S. Documents you submit to establish identity must show your legal name AND provide biographical information (your date of birth, age, or parents' names) and/or physical information (photograph, or physical description - height, eye and hair color, etc.). If you send a photo identity document but do not appear in person, the document must show your biographical information (e.g., your date of birth, age, or parents' names). Generally, documents without an expiration date should have been issued within the past two years for adults and within the past four years for children.

As proof of your identity, you must provide a:

- U.S. driver's license; or
- U.S. State-issued non-driver identity card; or
- U.S. passport

If you do not have one of the documents above or cannot get a replacement within 10 work days, we may accept other documents that show your legal name and biographical information, such as a U.S. military identity card, Certificate of Naturalization, employee identity card, certified copy of medical record (clinic, doctor or hospital), health insurance card, Medicaid card, or school identity card/record. For young children, we may accept medical records (clinic, doctor, or hospital) maintained by the medical provider. We may also accept a final adoption decree, or a school identity card, or other school record maintained by the school.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, we must see your current U.S. immigration document(s) and your foreign passport with biographical information or photograph.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT A BIRTH CERTIFICATE, HOSPITAL SOUVENIR BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SOCIAL SECURITY CARD STUB OR A SOCIAL SECURITY RECORD as evidence of identity.

Evidence of U.S. Citizenship

In general, you must provide your U.S. birth certificate or U.S. Passport. Other documents you may provide are a Consular Report of Birth, Certificate of Citizenship, or Certificate of Naturalization.

Evidence of Immigration Status

You must provide a current unexpired document issued to you by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) showing your immigration status, such as Form I-551, I-94, or I-766. If you are an international student or exchange visitor, you may need to provide additional documents, such as Form I-20, DS-2019, or a letter authorizing employment from your school and employer (F-1) or sponsor (J-1). We CANNOT accept a receipt showing you applied for the document. If you are not authorized to work in the U.S., we can issue you a Social Security card only if you need the number for a valid non-work reason. Your card will be marked to show you cannot work and if you do work, we will notify DHS. See page 3, item 5 for more information.

Form **SS-5** (10-2021) UF Page 3 of 5

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION

Complete and sign this application LEGIBLY using ONLY black or blue ink on the attached or downloaded form using only 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" (or A4 8.25" x 11.7") paper.

GENERAL: Items on the form are self-explanatory or are discussed below. The numbers match the numbered items on the form. If you are completing this form for someone else, please complete the items as they apply to that person.

- 4. Show the month, day, and full (4 digit) year of birth; for example, "1998" for year of birth.
- 5. If you check "Legal Alien Not Allowed to Work" or "Other," you must provide a document from a U.S. Federal, State, or local government agency that explains why you need a Social Security number and that you meet all the requirements for the government benefit. NOTE: Most agencies do not require that you have a Social Security number. Contact us to see if your reason qualifies for a Social Security number.
- 6., 7. Providing race and ethnicity information is voluntary and does not affect decisions on your application. We request this information for research and statistical purposes, to ensure all our customers receive fair and equal treatment.
- 9.B., 10.B. If you are applying for an original Social Security card for a child under age 18, you MUST show the parents' Social Security numbers unless the parent was never assigned a Social Security number. If the number is not known and you cannot obtain it, check the "unknown" box.
 - 13. If the date of birth you show in item 4 is different from the date of birth currently shown on your Social Security record, show the date of birth currently shown on your record in item 13 and provide evidence to support the date of birth shown in item 4.
 - 16. Show an address where you can receive your card 7 to 14 days from now.
 - 17. WHO CAN SIGN THE APPLICATION? If you are age 18 or older and are physically and mentally capable of reading and completing the application, you must sign in item 17. If you are under age 18, you may either sign yourself, or a parent or legal guardian may sign for you. If you are over age 18 and cannot sign on your own behalf, a legal guardian, parent, or close relative may generally sign for you. If you cannot sign your name, you should sign with an "X" mark and have two people sign as witnesses in the space beside the mark. Please do not alter your signature by including additional information on the signature line as this may invalidate your application. Call us if you have questions about who may sign your application.

HOW TO SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION

In most cases, you can take or mail this signed application with your documents to any Social Security office. Any documents you mail to us will be returned to you. Go to https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/FOLO/fo001.jsp to find the Social Security office or Social Security Card Center that serves your area.

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PROTECT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND CARD

Protect your SSN card and number from loss and identity theft. DO NOT carry your SSN card with you. Keep it in a secure location and only take it with you when you must show the card; e.g., to obtain a new job, open a new bank account, or to obtain benefits from certain U.S. agencies. Use caution in giving out your Social Security number to others, particularly during phone, mail, email and Internet requests you did not initiate.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT Collection and Use of Personal Information

Sections 205 and 702 of the Social Security Act, as amended, allow us to collect this information. Furnishing us this information is voluntary. However, failing to provide all or part of the information may prevent us from assigning you a Social Security number and issuing you a new or replacement Social Security card.

We will use the information you provide to issue you a replacement Social Security card. We may also share your information for the following purposes, called routine uses:

- To Federal, State, and local entities to assist them with administering income maintenance and health maintenance programs, when a Federal statute authorizes them to use the Social Security number; and
- To student volunteers, persons working under a personal services contract, and others when they need access to information in our records in order to perform their assigned agency duties.

In addition, we may share this information in accordance with the Privacy Act and other Federal laws. For example, where authorized, we may use and disclose this information in computer matching programs, in which our records are compared with other records to establish or verify a person's eligibility for Federal benefit programs and for repayment of incorrect or delinquent debts under these programs.

A list of additional routine uses is available in our Privacy Act System of Records Notices (SORN) 60-0058, entitled Master Files of Social Security Number (SSN) Holders and SSN Applications, as published in the Federal Register (FR) on December 29, 2010, at 75 FR 82121. Additional information, and a full listing of all of our SORNs, is available on our website at www.ssa.gov/privacy.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement - This information collection meets the requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507, as amended by section 2 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. You do not need to answer these questions unless we display a valid Office of Management and Budget control number. We estimate that it will take between 5 and 60 minutes to read the instructions, gather the facts, and answer the questions. SEND OR BRING THE COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE. You can find your local Social Security office through SSA's website at www.socialsecurity.gov. Offices are also listed under U. S. Government agencies in your telephone directory or you may call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). You may send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: SSA, 6401 Security Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401. Send only comments relating to our time estimate to this address, not the completed form.

OMB No. 0960-0066

		Applica	ation to	or a Soc		curity C	ard			
	NAME TO BE SHOWN ON CARD	Fir	rst		Full Mi	ddle Name		Last		
1	FULL NAME AT BIRTH IF OTHER THAN ABOVE	Fir	rst		Full Mi	ddle Name		Last		
	OTHER NAMES USED									
2	Social Security number pre listed in item 1	viously ass	signed to th	e person						
3	PLACE OF BIRTH						4 OF			
	(Do Not Abbreviate) Cit	у 	Stat	e or Foreign		FCI	BIRT		/M/DD/YY	YY
5	CITIZENSHIP (Check One)	U.S	. Citizen [Legal Alie Allowed T Work	o ∐₩̈	egal Alien No t ork(See Instr age 3)	t Allowed Tuctions On	ı 🗀 İns	her (See structions C age 3)	Эn
6	ETHNICITY Are You Hispanic or Latino (Your Response is Volunta Yes No	? ry) 7	RACE Select One Your Respo s Voluntary	onse	_	e Hawaiian 🗌 ka Native 📙 n	Americar Black/Afr Americar	ican _	Other Pa Islander White	cific
8	SEX		N	/lale	Fema					
9	A. PARENT/ MOTHER NAME AT HER BI	('5'	First		Full	Middle Name	9	Last		
9	B. PARENT/ MOTHER NUMBER (See instru								Unkno	wn
10	A. PARENT/ FATHER NAME	'S	First		Ful	l Middle Nam	е	Last		
10	B. PARENT/ FATHER NUMBER (See instru								Unkno	wn
11	Has the person listed in iter before? Yes (If "yes" answer quantum of the person listed in iter before?	-	_	on his/her be		ïled for or rec i't Know (If "do			-	
12	Name shown on the most r Security card issued for the listed in item 1		al	First		Full Midd	le Name	Last		
13	Enter any different date of learlier application for a care					MI	M/DD/YYY	Υ		
14	TODAY'S		15 ^{[5}	AYTIME I	PHONE					
	DATE MM/	DD/YYYY Stree		IUIVIDER		Area Cooral Route No.	de Num	ber		
16	MAILING ADDRESS	City				State/Foreign	Country		ZIP Co	ode
	(Do Not Abbreviate)	f periury th	nat I have e	examined al	I the infor	mation on th	is form a	nd on an	v accomp	anving
4_	I declare under penalty of statements or forms, and	it is true a								
17	YOUR SIGNATURE		18 T	☐ Self ☐ Na	ATIONSH atural Or loptive Pare	-HIP TO THE □ Legal nt Guardia	☐ Othe	r	M 1 IS:	
	OT WRITE BELOW THIS L	INE (FOR								
NPN			DOC	NTI		CAN			TV	
PBC		EVA	EVC	PRA		NWR	DNR	UNI		
EVID	ENCE SUBMITTED					SIGNATURE REVIEWING INTERVIEW				
					-				DATE	
					h	DCI			DATE	

EMPLOYMENT

Finding quality employment is an essential part of your transition plan. Well before your release, there are many things that you can do to prepare for this. First is to assemble as much information as possible of what is usually required on a job application or a resume. Begin by compiling a work history of your past jobs (see **Work History** form in this section). This may include jobs in while in SCDC. Next, list all education and training you've completed, including classes and certifications gained in the military or during incarceration. As much as possible, find documentation to prove that training. Finally, list your qualifications, skills and strengths (see **Skills & Interests** document for ideas). If possible, pull that information together into a resume.

Another essential step to take before beginning the job application process is to get a copy of your SC criminal background check. This will allow you to see what your employer will see when a background check is run. If any of the information is incorrect, you can take steps to have it corrected. This will also allow you to prepare a clear, honest, and concise response to any questions about your criminal background. The **Criminal Record Check** form is included at the end of this section. It should be completed and mailed to SLED along with a certified/cashier's check or money order for \$25. SLED will not accept cash or personal checks.

On a job application, read any question about your criminal background very carefully and answer honestly. If the question asks, "have you been convicted of a felony in the past 10 years?" but your felony was committed 12 years ago, the answer is "NO." If you do have to answer yes to a question about your criminal record, write "will explain at interview" as an explanation.

In addition to the resources listed above, you should be aware of some programs that provide incentives to employers who hire returning citizens. One is the **Work Opportunity Tax Credit** or **WOTC**. It provides a tax credit to employers who hire people in target groups (one of which is a convicted felony offender hired within one year of conviction or release date). Material explaining this tax credit is included in this section.

Another program that should be mentioned to potential employers when you apply for a job is the **Federal Bonding Program**. The program insures your employer against any dishonesty on your part during your first six months of employment. You can obtain a letter from SC Works with your name on it that will explain the insurance coverage to your potential employer. A brochure explaining the program is included in this section.

The following table provides some additional employment resources.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

Name	Contact Information	Services
SC Vocational	1400 Boston Ave.	Job shadowing, mentoring,
RehabilitationDept.	West Columbia, SC 29170	job tryouts, job search and
	(803) 896-6040	placement
	www.scdvr.net	
SC Dept. of	700 Taylor St.	Job placement, listings of
Employment and	Columbia, SC 29201	currentjob openings,
Workforce	(803) 737-5627	resume tips
	www.dew.sc.gov	
Goodwill Job	2744 Decker Blvd.	Resume and cover letter
Connection Services	Columbia, SC 29206	construction, advice, and
and Good Start Reentry	(803) 865-1770	guidelines, job leads and
Program		referrals for local employers,
	555 St. Andrews Rd.	interviewing practice and
	Columbia, SC 29210	employability advice,
	(803) 772-7900	employer cold calling
		preparation, state criminal
	For more locations call toll free:	background checks, job fairs.
	(877) 538-7975	
	,	
	www.goodwillsc.org/find-work	
SC Works Midlands	Richland County:	Skilled employment
	700 Taylor St.	specialists, thousands of local
	Columbia, SC 29201	job listings, training resources,
	(803) 737-5627	and full-service resource
		center with free phones, fax
	Lexington County:	machines, copiers, and
	671 Main Street	computers with internet
	West Columbia, SC 29170	access andresumes building
	(803) -3596131	tools; a veterans
		representative is available at
	Fairfield County:	this location.
	96 US Highway 321 Bypass South	
	Winnsboro, SC 29180	
	(803) 815-0627	
	www.scworksmidlands.org/columbia	

Employment Resources (cont'd)

Employment	Airport Campus:	MTC can help you decide
Resources	1260 Lexington Drive	what to study, excel as a
(cont'd)Midlands	West Columbia, SC 29170	student and find a job as
Technical College	BatesburgLeesville Campus:	well as providing tips that
	423 College Street	are designed specifically
	Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070	for those who have been
	3 2 2 2 3 4 2 4 2 4 2 4 2 4 2 4 2 4 2 4	incarcerated
	Beltline Campus:	
	316 South Beltline Boulevard	
	Columbia, SC 29205	
	(803) 738-8324	
	www.midlandstech.edu/student-	
	resources/student-employment-services	
Richland County	1431 Assembly Street	Practice interviewing skills,
Public Library's	Columbia, SC 29201	work on resume, consult
Business, Careers	(803) 929-3401	with a career coach,
and Research		assistance with small
Center	www.richlandlibrary.com/main	business resources, career
		online high school, job
		searches.
Action Labor	2111 Wayne Street	Staffing agency for
	Columbia, SC 29201	general labor in the local
	(803) 256-6010	area
	https://actionlabor.com/locations/columbia/	
Labor Finders	1225 Rosewood Dr.	Staffing agency for
	Columbia, SC 29201	general labor in the local
	(803) 779-1210	area
	https://www.laborfinders.com/sc/columbia	
Telemon	State Administrative Office	National organization
Corporation	2000 Park State Street, Suite 103	offering employment &
Workforce &	Columbia, SC 29201	training services, housing
Career Services	(803) 256-7411	& financial
	https://www.telamon.org	empowerment, and
		more.

Work History

1. Current or most r	· ·	T	
Dates Worked:		To	
			-
			_
`	Specific / What did you d	3 /	
2)			
3)			
4)			
Supervisor/reference:			
Name:			
Email:			
2. Previous job			
Dates Worked:	From	To	
Company / Institution	ı:		
			-
	Specific / What did you d		
1)			
2)			
4)			
Supervisor/reference:			
Name:			
Email:			

3. Next previous job

Dates Worked:	From	To	
Company / Institution:	:		
City / State:			
Position Name / Title:			
	Specific / What did you		
1)			
4)			
Supervisor/reference:			
Name:			
Dates Worked:	From	To	
Company / Institution:	:		
City / State:			
Responsibilities: (Be S	Specific / What did you	do on the job?)	
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
Supervisor/reference:			
Name:			
Email:			

Experience/Skills/Interests

- Accounting
- o Assembly
- Appraising
- o Audio installation
- o Audio engineering
- o Agriculture
- o Bar tending
- o Building
- o Barber
- Brick laying
- Child Care
- o Cleanina
- Carpentry
- o Concrete
- Construction
- Counseling
- Cooking
- Computer repair
- Communications
- Cashier
- Customer Service
- Catering
- Drawing
- Detailing
- o Driving
- o Drilling
- Dentistry/ dental tech
- Data entry
- Delivery
- Fabrication
- Flooring installation
- o Forklift
- Food prep
- o Fashion design
- o Farm work
- o Factory work
- Firefighting
- o Filing
- o Fishing
- o Finance
- Fence building

- Gardening
- Housekeeping
- o HVAC
- Hardware
- Inventory control
- Landscaping / lawn care
- Livestock
- Marketing
- Manufacturing
- Masonry
- Mechanic
- o Music
- Ministry
- o Painting
- o Plumbing
- o Power washing
- Packaging
- o Park Ranger
- Programming
- Record Keeping
- Research
- Repair
- o Roofina
- Real Estate
- Singing
- Sales
- Salvage
- Sewing
- Shipping
- Sports equipment
- Supervising
- Stock market
- o Teaching
- Training
- o Trucking
- Transportation
- Welding
- Wiring
- Writing
- Web design
- Window installation

FULL NAME (with middle name):

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

P.O. Box 21398 Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1398

Henry D. McMaster, Governor Mark A. Keel, Chief

Tel: (803) 737-9000

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK

(Please print your completed form and submit to SLED. You may want to print a copy for your records.)

KA a	and/or MAIDEN NAMES:
OB:	SSN:
	(Federal law permits governmental agencies to require a social security number in order to conduct official business; however, private entities may only obtain social security numbers if given voluntarily).
	(A self addressed stamped envelope is required for the return of background
	CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY
NA	ME OF ORGANIZATION:
VE	RIFICATION NUMBER (as provided by SLED for online checks):
SC	HOOL DISTRICTS ONLY – POSITION APPLIED FOR:
	(A self addressed stamped envelope is required for the return of background check)

PLEASE NOTE:

The fee is twenty-five dollars (\$25) unless you are a charitable organization approved for a fee of eight dollars (\$8). A charitable organization must include its name and User ID number or the request may not be processed. Payment must be business check, certified/cashier's check or money order payable to SLED. PERSONAL CHECKS and CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. This report contains records of arrests and convictions made by state/local agencies in South Carolina only. Alteration of a completed criminal record check may subject a person to criminal prosecution. A completed criminal records check should not be accepted unless it bears an original SLED stamp.

*SLED RECORDS SECTION HAS BEEN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC SINCE DECEMBER 15, 2008.

(CJ-022) Revised 09/25/15











WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

Quick Reference Guide for Employers

Did you know that in 2020, State Workforce Agencies issued 1.6 million certifications to employers seeking a Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)?

WHAT IS WOTC?

The WOTC is a federal tax credit available to employers who invest in American job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment. Employers may meet their business needs and claim a tax credit if they hire an individual who is in a WOTC <u>targeted group</u>. Employers must apply for and receive a certification verifying the **new hire** is a member of a targeted group before they can claim the tax credit. After the required certification is secured, taxable employers claim the WOTC as a general business credit against their income taxes, and tax-exempt employers claim the WOTC against their payroll taxes.

BENEFITS TO EMPLOYERS

The credit available ranges from \$2,400 up to \$9,600, depending on the targeted group and qualified wages paid to the new employee generally during the first year of employment. Generally, the credit is 40% of qualified first-year wages for individuals who work 400+ hours in their first year of employment.

HOW CAN EMPLOYERS FIND JOB CANDIDATES IN WOTC TARGETED GROUPS?

The American Job Centers and partnering agencies and programs can help employers connect with skilled job seekers who may be in a targeted group for the WOTC. American Job Centers (AJCs) can assist employers in recruiting talent, hosting job fairs, conducting skills assessment, and providing support to workers transitioning to new jobs.

Some jobseekers may also be pre-certified as in a WOTC targeted group. This pre-certification can be helpful, but is not required for hiring or claiming the tax credit, and job candidates that may be a good fit for your business and eligible for the WOTC may not have

a pre-certification. A state workforce agency (SWA) or **participating agency** can determine whether a job seeker may be in a WOTC targeted group, and note this determination with a *Conditional Certification*, ETA Form 9062. The state agency then gives that precertification to the job-ready applicant to use during their job search. The Conditional Certification serves an as official record of WOTC pre-certification by:

- ► Alerting prospective employers to the availability of the tax credit if the individual is hired, and
- Providing a means for employers to request a WOTC certification for the job applicant/new hire.

A "participating agency" is a federal, state, county, or local government agency or a grantee of these agencies. Examples of participating agencies may include:

- American Job Centers
- Vocational Rehabilitation agencies
- ► City and county social service offices
- Department of Corrections
- Veterans Administration and related service organizations
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant recipients

State Workforce Agencies (SWA) are authorized to administer the WOTC certification process and coordinate with <u>American Job Centers</u> and partnering agencies to help employers connect with skilled job seekers who may be in WOTC targeted groups. Employers should <u>contact their SWA</u> for assistance connecting with partnering agencies and filing WOTC certification requests.

HOW CAN EMPLOYERS GET STARTED WITH WOTC?

Learn how to file a certification request by visiting the U.S. Department of Labor WOTC website at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wotc. View eligibility criteria for WOTC targeted groups in the WOTC
Desk Aid, or visit the IRS website at https://irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/work-opportunity-tax-credit.

OTHER HIRING INCENTIVES FOR EMPLOYERS

Employers can expand their hiring practices with the WOTC or with other programs such as the Federal Bonding Program (FBP) or 'Employee Retention Credit' (ERC) under the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Federal Bonding Program (FBP). Employers can receive fidelity bonds free of charge when hiring certain job applicants. The bonds reimburse the employer for any loss due to employee theft (\$5,000)

up to \$25,000), and cover the first six months of employment at no cost to the job applicant or the employer (\$0 deductible). Fidelity bonds can be applied to ANY job, ANY state, and to ANY employee (excluding a self-employed individual) who is paid wages and has Federal taxes automatically deducted. To date, FBP has issued over 50,000 bonds. Gain access to tools that help employers integrate the FBP into hiring endeavors by calling 1-877-US2-JOBS (1-877-872-5627) or visit the Bonds4Jobs website: https://bonds4jobs.com/resources.

The Employee Retention Credit (ERC). Under present law, the ERC is a refundable tax credit against certain employment taxes equal to 50% of the qualified wages paid by an eligible employer after March 12, 2020, and before January 1, 2021, and 70% of qualified wages paid by an eligible employer after December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2022. Eligible employers can get immediate access to the credit by reducing employment tax deposits they are otherwise required to make. For example, a small business employer that hires an individual released from prison following incarceration for a felony within the last twelve months, and employs the individual from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, could qualify for a credit of up to \$16,400 for that employee by claiming both the WOTC and the ERC, provided that the same wages are not used to calculate the WOTC and the ERC. For more information on the ERC, visit the IRS website: https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/ new-law-extends-covid-tax-credit-for-employerswho-keep-workers-on-payroll.





Federal Bonding Program At-a-Glance

"I have simple words for employers.

Use the Federal Bonding Program – try it
– do it! There's nothing but upside to it.

Truly, you're getting the most wonderful
employees that are out there."

Charles Maymon, Regional CEO American Ambulance Service

For over 50 years, the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) Federal Bonding Program (FBP) has successfully provided fidelity bonds to employers, giving them access to job seekers and opening doors of opportunity where none existed. The FBP:

- Provides access to \$5,000-\$25,000 of fidelity bond coverage for an employee's first six months of employment
- Is not cost-prohibitive employers gain access to bonds at no charge
- Protects employers against employee theft, forgery, larceny and embezzlement
- **Ensures coverage** for any job, in any state, and on or away from the work site. Coverage begins once an applicant receives a job offer
- **Supports** employees who work full- or part-time and have Federal taxes automatically deducted from their pay. While self-employed people cannot be covered, temporary employment agencies qualify
- Enables employers to obtain worker skills without taking risk

Win / Win for Employers and Candidates

Thousands of employers across the country have integrated the Federal Bonding Program into their hiring practices — industries that support our country's economy — hospitality, retail, construction, transportation, auto repair, manufacturing, healthcare, banking, tourism and more. The FBP has placed over 50,000 job seekers into employment through bonds.

This unique hiring incentive tool targets individuals whose backgrounds can pose significant barriers to securing or retaining employment, including:

- Justice-involved men, women and youth
- People in recovery from substance abuse
- TANF recipients
- Individuals with poor credit records
- Economically disadvantaged youth and adults with little or no work histories
- People dishonorably discharged from the military

People with these backgrounds do succeed in the workplace when given the opportunity.



The Federal Bonding Program is Simple

- ✓ NO bond approval processing
- √ NO papers for employer to sign
- ✓ NO Federal regulations covering bonds issued
- ✓ NO follow-up or termination actions
- √ NO deductible in bond insurance amount if employee dishonesty occurs
- √ NO bondee age requirements other than legal working age in State

Attention Employers and Job Seekers – if you are seeking bonding services:

- 1. Contact your State Bonding Coordinator. Find contact information at http://bonds4jobs.com/our-services/directory. He or she will put you in touch with a local job placement agency or organization responsible for issuing bonds.
- 2. Present a secure job offer to this entity.
- Provide company information and the employee's name to the job placement agency.

The bond will be sent to the employer within 10 business days. The process is as simple as that!

Questions? Contact Tom Villanova at tom@bonds4jobs.com.



1-877-US2-JOBS www.bonds4jobs.com



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Determining where you will live upon release is a key part of your release plan. Always have a backup plan in case your first choice falls through. If you plan to live with a friend or family member, make sure that you have clearly communicated how long you plan to be there and that they are in full agreement. If you will be relying on public transportation or other services on a regular basis, it will be important to live close to those resources.

If you have been in prison for several years, starting out at a transitional home may be the best first step. There are a limited number of transitional beds in the Midlands, so applying early may give you the best chance of having a place ready for you the day you are released.

Name	Contact Information	Description
Alston Wilkes Society	3519 Medical Dr.	Adult residential facilities that house
	Columbia, SC 29203	federal offenders in Columbia,
	(803) 799-2490	Charleston, and Florence.
	www.alstonwilkessociety.org	Also has a shelter for homeless vets.
Providence Home	3421 N. Main St.	Christian organization providing long-
	Columbia, SC 29203	term transitional housing for men
	(803) 779-2927	transitioning from homelessness,
	www.providencehomecolumbia.org	substance abuse, and incarceration.
		60 beds
Oliver Gospel Mission	1100 Taylor St.	Downtown mission offering
	Columbia, SC 29201	emergency shelter for men and a
	(803) 254-6470	residential facility for women &
	www.olivergospelmission.org	children. Also offers long term life
		development programs.
Destiny House	PO Box 7401	Christian organization providing
	Columbia, SC 29202	transitional housing and programs
	(803) 465-6264	specifically for returning citizens.
	Email: info.p3murray@gmail.com	
Transitions	2025 Main Street	Largest transitional housing facility in
	Columbia, SC 29201	Columbia with 260 beds serving
	(803) 708-4861	adult men and women without
	https://transitionssc.org	children
Stepping Stones	2123 Bull St	Transitional housing and faith-based
Ministry, Inc.	Columbia, SC 29201	substance abuse recovery program
	(803) 386-8077	for men and women.
	https://ssmrecovery.org	
Reconciliation	3120 Kay St.	Provides a highly structured, long-
Ministries	Columbia, SC 29210	term residential discipleship program
	(803)727-4697	for men & women seeking treatment
	https://www.reconciliation-min.org	and freedom from substance abuse.

FOOD

Until you get your feet on the ground, you may need to rely on local organizations who offer assistance to people facing food insecurity. There are a number of these organizations in the Midlands that fill various roles from providing food vouchers to hosting soup kitchens to operating food pantries. Here are just a few:

Name	Contact Information	Services
SC Dept of Social Services (DSS)	Richland County: 3220 Two Notch Road Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 714-7300	Apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
	Lexington County: 1070 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29073 (803) 785-7333 dss.sc.gov/assistance- programs/snap/how-do-i-apply	
The Cooperative Ministry	3821 W. Beltline Blvd Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 799-3853 www.coopmin.org/food	Meet with a counselor to get assistance with food. Other services are provided including clothing, furniture, and more
Harvest Hope Food Bank	2220 Shop Road Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 254-4432 www.harvesthope.org/get-help	Food pantry
Food Share	2016 Harden Street Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 957-6656 https://foodsharesc.org	Fresh food boxes ordered a day in advance.
Salvation Army	3024 Farrow Rd Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 765-0260 www.doingthemostgood.org	Food vouchers

CLOTHING

In the first few days and weeks after your release, you may initially need some help with clothing. Fortunately, there are various resources in the Midlands that you can turn to.

There are numerous thrift stores (like Goodwill) that provide slightly used clothing at affordable prices. Other organizations that provide clothing assistance are listed below.

Name	Contact Information	Services
The Cooperative	3821 W. Beltline Blvd	Food and clothing
Ministry	Columbia, SC 29204	assistance.
	(803) 799-3853	Financial assistance for
		rent/mortgage and
	www.coopmin.org/clothing-and-furniture-	utilities and cars for clients
	<u>bank</u>	who are employed only.
		Furniture for homeless
		individuals moving into
		housing by referral only. Free tax preparation.
God's Storehouse	1731 Risley Road	Food from as often as
000 3 31010110030	Columbia, SC 29223	every 30 days.
	(803) 691-1622	Clothing/household items
	(003) 071-1022	as often as every 60 days.
Lexington Interfaith	216 Harmon Street	Food, clothing, and
Community Service	Lexington, SC 29072	limited financial assistance
Continuoring service	(803) 957-6656	(when available) for rent,
	(000) 707 0000	electric bills, prescriptions,
	www.missionlexingtonsc.org	water and automobile
	WWW.ITIIDSIGTIIOXIITIgTOTISC.Org	gas.
Salvation Army	3024 Farrow Road	Food vouchers 10am-4pm
,	Columbia, SC	(every 6 months)
	(803) 765-0260	Clothing vouchers 10am-
		12pm (every 3 months
	www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/columbia	homeless, every 6 months
		all others)
Christ Central	1711 Pendleton Street	Organization offering
Ministries	Columbia, SC 29201	many services to those in
	(803) 600-5808	poverty & transition in the
	https://www.christcentralministries.org	Midlands.

TRANSPORTATION

COMET

COMET is the bus system that serves the Columbia metro area. Instructions for using the system are on their website at catchthecometsc.gov/how-to-ride.

Fares:

1-time fare: \$2.00 All-day pass: \$4:00 7-day pass: \$14.00 31-day pass: \$40.00.

There are discounts available that reduce rates up to 50%. Discounts are available for:

- Seniors 65+ (requires state ID or license)
- Persons with disabilities (COMET Half Fare ID Card, which will allow for many different mental and physical health limitations)
- veterans (military ID or VA veterans ID card)
- Medicare card holders
- Youth 16-18 years old

Passes can be purchased at:

- The transit center at the corner of Sumter & Laurel Streets in downtown Columbia
- The COMET website
- Piggly Wiggly customer service
- Eastover town hall (cash only)
- Springdale town hall (cash only)
- Use the <u>Catch the COMET app</u> to choose a route, pay a fare, buy passes and plan trips, all on your smartphone.

COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

The Cooperative Ministry provides used vehicles to persons who qualify for their car program. You must have been working for at least six months to be eligible for the program, but it could be a long-term solution to your transportation needs if you qualify.

Call Cooperative Ministry at (803) 799-3853 for more information.

LOGISTICARE

Transportation to and from medical appointments. (866) 445-6860

www.logisticare.com/members-families

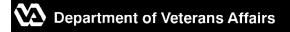
HEALTH CARE AND INSURANCE

Below is a list of providers for reduced cost or free health care services (including dental and eye care).

Name	Contact Information	Hours	Services
The	3821 West Beltline Blvd.	Mon-Thu 9am -5pm	Food, financial,
Cooperative	Columbia, SC 29204	Fri 9am-12pm	homeless, and
Ministry	(803) 799-3853		medical for Richland,
	www.coopmin.org		Lexington and
			Fairfield county
			residents meeting
			income
			requirements.
Columbia Free	1875 Harden Street Columbia,	Mon-Thu 8am-5pm	Primary Care,
Medical Clinic	SC 29204	Fri 8am-12pm	medication, referrals
	(803) 765-1503		to eye and dental
	www.freemedclinic.org		care. Care provided
Clinia a El Duan	Diabland County	Turas Arana	based on income.
Clinica El Buen	Richland County: 7915 Old Percival Rd	Tues 4pm	Free volunteer-based clinic.
Samaritan (The Good	Columbia, SC 29223	Call Tues 2-4pm to register	Cill'liC.
Samaritan	(803) 790-0239	registet	
Clinic)	(603) 770-0237		
	Lexington County:	Thurs 4pm	
	1316 Leaphart St.	Call Thurs 2-4pm to	
	West Columbia, SC 29169	register	
	(803) 796-4484		
	,		
	www.goodsamaritansc.org		
Christ Central	2018A Main Street,	Second Wednesday	Free eye care clinic
Ministries	Columbia, SC 29201	of the month	
Optical Clinic	(803) 898-9125		
	www.christcentralministries.org		
Cooperative	4605 Monticello Road	Mon-Fri	Non-profit
Health Centers	Building A, Suite 3	8:30am-4:30pm	community health
	Columbia, SC 29203		clinic network
	(803) 754-0151		providing care across
	www.ecchc.org		four counties in the
			Midlands.

Health Care and Insurance (Cont'd)

Name	Contact Information	Hours	Services
WellPartners	Lexington: 1070 S. Lake Drive, Suite B Lexington, SC 29073 Adult Dental: 803-888-3270 Child Dental: 803-888-3271 Richland: 2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204 Child Dental: (803) 888-1590	Adult: Mon 8am-4pm Tue12:30pm-4pm Thu 12:30pm-5pm Child: Tue-Fri 8:30am-1:30pm Adult Dental: Mon-Thu 8:30am-5pm Friday 8:30am-12pm Child Dental:	WellPartners connects community volunteers and partners to help uninsured and underinsured people in the Midlands gain access to health care services.
	Adult Dental: (803) 888-1690 Adult Eye: (803) 888-1692 www.wellpartners.org	Tue-Fri 8:30am-1:30pm Adult Eye: By appt	
NeedyMeds	(800) 503-6897 www.needymeds.org		Website that provides information about patient assistance programs which provide free prescription medications to eligible participants.
Prisma Health Financial Assistance	(803) 434-3834 www.prismahealth.org		Financial assistance is available for emergency and other medically necessary care provided by Prisma Health (and certain other providers) to both insured and uninsured patients who meet income and asset limit requirements.
Midlands Access Health	(803) 296-2220 prismahealth.org/services/other-services/accesshealth		A network of healthcare providers and community agencies supporting the health and wellbeing of people who cannot afford to get care on their own.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING ENROLLMENT APPLICATION FOR HEALTH BENEFITS

Please Read Before You Start . . . What is VA Form 10-10EZ used for?

For Veterans to apply for enrollment in the VA health care system. The information provided on this form will be used by VA to determine your eligibility for medical benefits and on average will take 30 minutes to complete. This includes the time it will take to read instructions, gather the necessary facts and fill out the form.

Where can I get help filling out the form and if I have questions?

You may use ANY of the following to request assistance:

- Ask VA to help you fill out the form by calling us at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).
- Go to www.va.gov/health-care for information about VA health benefits.
- Contact the Enrollment Coordinator at your local VA health care facility.
- Contact a National or State Veterans Service Organization.

Definitions of terms used on this form:

- SERVICE-CONNECTED (SC): A VA determination that an illness or injury was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, in the active military, naval or air service.
- COMPENSABLE: A VA determination that a service-connected disability is severe enough to warrant monetary compensation.
- NONCOMPENSABLE: A VA determination that a service-connected disability is not severe enough to warrant monetary compensation.
- NONSERVICE-CONNECTED (NSC): A Veteran who does not have a VA determined service-related condition.

Getting Started:

ALL VETERANS MUST COMPLETE SECTIONS I - III.

Directions for Sections I - III:

Section I - General Information: Answer all questions.

Section II - **Military Service Information:** If you are not currently receiving benefits from VA, you may attach a copy of your discharge or separation papers from the military (such as DD-214 or, for WWII Veterans, a "WD" Form), with your signed application to expedite processing of your application. If you are currently receiving benefits from VA, we will cross-reference your information with VA data.

Section III - Insurance Information: Include information for all health insurance companies that cover you, this includes coverage provided through a spouse or significant other. Bring your insurance cards, Medicare and/or Medicaid card with you to each health care appointment.

Directions for Sections IV-VI:

Financial Disclosure: ONLY NSC AND 0% NONCOMPENSABLE SC VETERANS MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR VA HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT AND/OR CARE OR SERVICES.

Financial Disclosure Requirements Do Not Apply To:

- a former Prisoner of War; or
- those in receipt of a Purple Heart; or
- a recently discharged Combat Veteran; or
- those discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; or
- those receiving VA SC disability compensation; or
- those receiving VA pension; or
- those in receipt of Medicaid benefits; or
- those who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975; or
- those who served in SW Asia during the Gulf War between August 2, 1990 and November 11, 1998; or
- those who served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987.

You are not required to disclose your financial information; however, VA is not currently enrolling new applicants who decline to provide their financial information unless they have other qualifying eligibility factors. If a financial assessment is not used to determine your priority for enrollment you may choose not to disclose your information. However, if a financial assessment is used to determine your eligibility for cost-free medication, travel assistance or waiver of the travel deductible, and you do not disclose your financial information, you will not be eligible for these benefits.

Section IV - Dependent Information: Include the following:

- Your spouse even if you did not live together, as long as you contributed support last calendar year.
- Your biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren who are unmarried and under the age of 18, or at least 18 but under 23 and attending high school, college or vocational school (full or part-time), or became permanently unable to support themselves before age 18.
- Child support contributions. Contributions can include tuition or clothing payments or payments of medical bills.

Continued ...

Section V - Employment Information:

- Veterans Employment Status
- Date of Retirement
- Company Name

- Company Address
- Company Phone Number

$Section \ VI-Previous \ Calendar \ Year \ Gross \ Annual \ Income \ of \ Veteran, Spouse \ and \ Dependent \ Children$

Report:

- Gross annual income from employment, except for income from your farm, ranch, property or business. Include your wages, bonuses, tips, severance pay and other accrued benefits and your child's income information if it could have been used to pay your household expenses.
- Net income from your farm, ranch, property, or business.
- Other income amounts, including retirement and pension income, Social Security Retirement and Social Security Disability income, compensation benefits such as VA disability, unemployment, Workers and black lung, cash gifts, interest and dividends, including tax exempt earnings and distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) or annuities.

Do Not Report:

Donations from public or private relief, welfare or charitable organizations; Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and need-based payments from a government agency; profit from the occasional sale of property; income tax refunds, reinvested interest on Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs); scholarships and grants for school attendance; disaster relief payments; reimbursement for casualty loss; loans; Radiation Compensation Exposure Act payments; Agent Orange settlement payments; Alaska Native Claims Settlement Acts Income, payments to foster parent; amounts in joint accounts in banks and similar institutions acquired by reason of death of the other joint owner; Japanese ancestry restitution under Public Law 100-383; cash surrender value of life insurance; lump-sum proceeds of life insurance policy on a Veteran; and payments received under the Medicare transitional assistance program.

Section VII - Previous Calendar Year Deductible Expenses

Report non-reimbursed medical expenses paid by you or your spouse. Include expenses for medical and dental care, drugs, eyeglasses, Medicare, medical insurance premiums and other health care expenses paid by you for dependents and persons for whom you have a legal or moral obligation to support. Do not list expenses if you expect to receive reimbursement from insurance or other sources. Report last illness and burial expenses, e.g., prepaid burial, paid by the Veteran for spouse or dependent(s).

Section VIII - Consent to Copays and to Receive Communications

By submitting this application, you are agreeing to pay the applicable VA copayments for care or services (including urgent care) as required by law. You also agree to receive communications from VA to your supplied email, home phone number, or mobile number. However, providing your email, home phone number, or mobile number is voluntary.

Submitting Your Application

- 1. You or an individual to whom you have delegated your Power of Attorney must sign and date the form. If you sign with an "X", 2 people you know must witness you as you sign. They must sign the form and print their names. If the form is not signed and dated appropriately, VA will return it for you to complete.
- 2. Attach any continuation sheets, a copy of supporting materials and your Power of Attorney documents to your application.

Where do I send my application?

Mail the original application and supporting materials to the Health Eligibility Center, 2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30329.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT AND PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires us to notify you that this information collection is in accordance with the clearance requirements of Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. We may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB number. We anticipate that the time expended by all individuals who must complete this form will average 30 minutes. This includes the time it will take to read instructions, gather the necessary facts and fill out the form.

Privacy Act Information: VA is asking you to provide the information on this form under 38 U.S.C. Sections 1705,1710, 1712, and 1722 in order for VA to determine your eligibility for medical benefits. Information you supply may be verified from initial submission forward through a computer-matching program. VA may disclose the information that you put on the form as permitted by law. VA may make a "routine use" disclosure of the information as outlined in the Privacy Act systems of records notices and in accordance with the VHA Notice of Privacy Practices. Providing the requested information is voluntary, but if any or all of the requested information is not provided, it may delay or result in denial of your request for health care benefits. Failure to furnish the information will not have any effect on any other benefits to which you may be entitled. If you provide VA your Social Security Number, VA will use it to administer your VA benefits. VA may also use this information to identify Veterans and persons claiming or receiving VA benefits and their records, and for other purposes authorized or required by law.

VA FORM 10-10EZ, JUL 2021 HEC PAGE 2 OF 5

OMB Control No. 2900-0091 Estimated Burden Avg. 30 min. Expiration Date: 06/30/2024

Department of Veterans Affairs						VA DATE (For VHA					
APPLICATION FOR HEALTH BENEFITS					,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •					
SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION											
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MARRIED NEVER MAR	RIED :	SEPARATED	WIDOV	VED	DIVORCE	D					
12A. NEXT OF KIN NAME 12B. NEXT OF KIN ADDRESS 12C. NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP											
12D. NEXT OF KIN TELEPHONE NO. 12E. NEXT OF KIN WORK TELEPHONE NO. 13. DESIGNEE - INDIVIDUAL TO RECEIVE POSSESSION OF YOUR PERSONAL					NAL						
(Include Area Code) (Include Area Code) PROPERTY LEFT ON PREMISES UNDER VA CONTROL AFTER YOUI DEPARTURE OR AT THE TIME OF DEATH (Note: This does not const				ite a							
					will or tran	sfer of til	tle)				
14. WHICH VA MEDICAL CENTER OR OUTPATIENT CLINIC DO YOU PREFER? 15. WOULD YOU LIKE FOR VA TO CONTACT YOU TO SCHEDULE YOUR F			OUR FI	RST							
(for listing of facilities visit www.v					APPOINTM						
					YES	NO					
		SECTION II - N	IILITAF	RY SE	RVICE INFOR	MATION	N	_			
1A. LAST BRANCH OF SERVICE	1B. LAST ENT	FRY DATE (mm/dd/yy	<i>yy)</i> 10	C. FUT	URE DISCHARG	E DATE	(mm/dd/yyyy)	1D. LAST DISCHA	RGE DATE	(mm/dd	l/yyyy)
1E. DISCHARGE TYPE 1F. MILITARY SERVICE NUMBER											
2. MILITARY HISTORY (Check yes or no) YES NO YES				NO							
A. ARE YOU A PURPLE HEART AWARD RECIPIENT?				G. DO YOU H	IAVE A V	'A SERVICE-	CONNECTED RATIN	G?			
B. ARE YOU A FORMER PRISONER OF WAR?				IF "YES",	WHAT IS	YOUR RAT	ED PERCENTAGE _	%			
C. DID YOU SERVE IN A COMBAT THEATER OF OPERATIONS AFTER 11/11/1998?				H. DID YOU S		N VIETNAM B	ETWEEN JANUARY	9, 1962			
D. WERE YOU DISCHARGED OR RETIRED FROM MILITARY FOR A DISABILITY INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY?					I. WERE YOU MILITARY?	EXPOS	ED TO RADIA	ATION WHILE IN THE	<u> </u>		
E. ARE YOU RECEIVING DISABILITY VA COMPENSATION?	RETIREMENT	PAY INSTEAD OF			TREATMEI	NTS WH	ILE IN THE M				
F. DID YOU SERVE IN SW ASIA DURING THE GULF WAR BETWEEN AUGUST 2, 1990 AND NOVEMBER 11, 1998?					EUNE FF	ROM AUGUS	JTY AT LEAST 30 DA T 1, 1953 THROUGH	AYS AT			

APPLICATION FOR HEALTH BENEFIT Continued	ENEFITS VETERAN'S NAME (Last, First, Middle)			SOCIAL SECURITY N	IUMBER
SECTION III - INSURANCE INF	ORMATION (U	(Use a separate sheet for additional information)			
1. ENTER YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY NAME, ADDRE	SS AND TELEPH	ONE NUMBER (includ	e coverage through spous	e or other person)	
2. NAME OF POLICY HOLDER		3. POLICY NUMBE	R	4. GROUP CODE	
5. ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID? (Federal health insurance for low income adults) YES NO		6A. ARE YOU ENF YES I 6B. EFFECTIVE DA	10	SPITAL INSURANCE PART	A ?
SECTION IV - DEPENDENT INF	FORMATION (U	Jse a separate shee	et for additional depen	dents)	
1. SPOUSE'S NAME (Last, First, Middle Name)			Last, First, Middle Name,		
1A. SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		2A. CHILD'S DATE	OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy)	2B. CHILD'S SOCIAL SECU	JRITY NO.
1B. SPOUSE'S DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy)	ITITY	2C. DATE CHILD B	ECAME YOUR DEPENDE	NT (mm/dd/yyyy)	
☐ TRANSMALE/TRANSMAN/FEMA☐ TRANSFEMALE/TRANSWOMAN/I☐ CHOOSE NOT TO ANSWER			TIONSHIP TO YOU (Chec.	cone) EPSON STEPDAU	GHTER
1D. DATE OF MARRIAGE (mm/dd/yyyy)		2E. WAS CHILD PE AGE OF 18?	RMANENTLY AND TOTA	LY DISABLED BEFORE THE	Ē
1E. SPOUSE'S ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER (Street, City, State, ZIF if different from Veteran's)		2F. IF CHILD IS BETWEEN 18 AND 23 YEARS OF AGE, DID CHILD ATTEND SCHOOL LAST CALENDAR YEAR? YES NO			
IF YOUR SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD DID NOT LIVE WITH YOU LAST YEAR, DID YOU PROVIDE SUPPORT?			ND BY YOUR DEPENDEN REHABILITATION OR TRA	T CHILD FOR COLLEGE, AINING (e.g., tuition, books, n	naterials)
YES NO					
SECTION V - EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION					
1A. VETERAN'S EMPLOYMENT STATUS (Check one). FULL TIME PART TIME NOT EMP	LOYED	RETIRED	1B. DATE OF RETIREM	NT (mm/dd/yyyy)	
1C. COMPANY NAME. (Complete if employed or retired) 1D. COMPAN (Complete		retired - Street, City, S	tate, ZIP)	1E. COMPANY PHONE NU (Complete if employed o (Include area code)	
SECTION VI - PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR GR (Use a se		INCOME OF VETE or additional deper		EPENDENT CHILDREN	
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT (wages, bonuses, tips, etc.) EXCLUDING INCOME FROM YOUR FARM, RANCH, PROPERTY OR BUSINESS		VETERAN	\$ SPOUSE	CHILE \$	01
2. NET INCOME FROM YOUR FARM, RANCH, PROPERTY OR BUSINESS			\$	\$	
3. LIST OTHER INCOME AMOUNTS (e.g., Social Security, compensation, pension, interest, dividends) EXCLUDING WELFARE.			_	\$	
SECTION VII - PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSES					
1. TOTAL NON-REIMBURSED MEDICAL EXPENSES PAID BY YOU OR YOUR SPOUSE (e.g., payments for doctors, dentists, medications, Medicare, health insurance, hospital and nursing home) VA will calculate a deductible and the net medical expenses you may claim.					
2. AMOUNT YOU PAID LAST CALENDAR YEAR FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL EXPENSES (INCLUDING PREPAID BURIAL EXPENSES) FOR YOUR DECEASED SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD (Also enter spouse or child's information in Section VI .)				\$	
3. AMOUNT YOU PAID LAST CALENDAR YEAR FOR YOUR COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES (e.g., tuition, books, fees, materials) DO NOT LIST YOUR DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES.			ooks, \$		

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APPLICATION FOR HEALTH BENEFITS Continued

VETERAN'S NAME (Last, First, Middle)

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

SECTION VIII - CONSENT TO COPAYS AND TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS

By submitting this application, you are agreeing to pay the applicable VA copayments for care or services (including urgent care) as required by law. You also agree to receive communications from VA to your supplied email, home phone number, or mobile number. However, providing your email, home phone number, or mobile number is voluntary.

ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS

I understand that pursuant to 38 U.S.C. Section 1729 and 42 U.S.C. 2651, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to recover or collect from my health plan (HP) or any other legally responsible third party for the reasonable charges of nonservice-connected VA medical care or services furnished or provided to me. I hereby authorize payment directly to VA from any HP under which I am covered (including coverage provided under my spouse's HP) that is responsible for payment of the charges for my medical care, including benefits otherwise payable to me or my spouse. Furthermore, I hereby assign to the VA any claim I may have against any person or entity who is or may be legally responsible for the payment of the cost of medical services provided to me by the VA. I understand that this assignment shall not limit or prejudice my right to recover for my own benefit any amount in excess of the cost of medical services provided to me by the VA or any other amount to which I may be entitled. I hereby appoint the Attorney General of the United States and the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs and their designees as my Attorneys-in-fact to take all necessary and appropriate actions in order to recover and receive all or part of the amount herein assigned. I hereby authorize the VA to disclose, to my attorney and to any third party or administrative agency who may be responsible for payment of the cost of medical services provided to me, information from my medical records as necessary to verify my claim. Further, I hereby authorize any such third party or administrative agency to disclose to the VA any information regarding my claim.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST SIGN AND DATE THIS FORM. REFER TO INSTRUCTIONS WHICH DEFINE WHO CAN SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE VETERAN.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (Sign in ink)	DATE (mm/dd/yyyy)	
	-	

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MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Many who have gone through the trauma of incarceration and experienced other life tragedies are in need of mental health services to return to a stable, healthy mental state. Admitting your need for help is not a sign of weakness but of wisdom. Many churches offer pastoral counseling. Depending on your individual condition, you may need professional mental health care. Listed below are three local resources to assist you.

Name	Contact Information	Services
Columbia Area Mental Health Center	2715 Colonial Dr. Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29205 (803) 898-4800 https://scdmh.net/	Counseling, treatment and evaluations
Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc. (MIRCI)	3809 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC, 29205 (803) 939-2642 www.mirci.org/	Home based program counseling, parenting classes, and financial budgeting
National Alliance on Mental Illness	1823 Gadsden St Columbia, SC 29202 (803) 206-2916 namimid-carolina.org/	Support and advocacy for services through education and information
Hidden Wounds	4711 Forest Dr. Suite 3 PMB 317 Columbia, SC 29206 1-888-4HW-HERO (803) 403-8460 https://hiddenwounds.org	Mental health support and other programs for veterans dealing with psychological challenges and mental health.
Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN)	1-800-656-4673 (24-hr hotline) www.rainn.org	One-on-one crisis counseling (via phone or online chat) for survivors of sexual assault. Helps survivors connect to local resources including therapy and legal support.
The Big Red Barn Retreat	8024 Winnsboro Rd Blythewood, SC 29016 (803) 716-9097 https://www.thebigredbarnretreat.org	Multiple services for veterans including yoga, art, gardening, equineassisted psychotherapy

SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY

If substance abuse or addictions have plagued you in the past, overcoming them and preventing relapse will be a key part of your successful transition. Listed below are several local resources that can help you along that path to freedom.

Name	Contact Information	Services
Celebrate	See the following page for a listing of	Christ-centered, 12-step
Recovery	meeting locations including contact information.	program for recovery from addictions and destructive life habits
	http://www.celebraterecovery.com/crgroups	including pornography, eating disorders, substance abuse, and more.
National Helpline/ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	800-662-HELP (4357)	Free 24/7 365 days per year confidential treatment referral and information service for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders
LRADAC	2711 Colonial Drive Columbia, SC 29203 (803) 726-9300 Or 1068 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29073 (803) 726-9400 www.lradac.org	Prevention, intervention and treatment programs convenient to residents of Richland and Lexington Counties
Reconciliation Ministries	3120 Kay Street Columbia, SC 29210 (803) 386-7866 www.reconciliation-min.org	Reconciliation Ministries provides an intensive, structured residential program for addiction recovery.

Celebrate Recovery Meeting information

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00 pm
30 pm
30 pm
) pm
:00 pm
ay 6:30 pm
:30 pm
:30 pm
ay 6:00 pm
pm

EDUCATION

There are several resources for adult education and literacy programs in the Midlands. Listed below are four of them:

Name	Contact Information	Services
Turning Pages	2062 N. Beltline Blvd. Columbia, SC 29206 (803) 782-1210 turningpagessc.com	Changing the lives of Midlands residents by improving their skills in reading, math and English language proficiency.
Richland One Adult Education	2612 Covenant Road Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 343-2935 www.richlandone.org/domain/86	High school diploma, GED, WIN Ready to Work certificates, ESL, Self-improvement in Math and Reading, Adult Literacy.
Midlands Tech Educational Opportunity Center	1260 Lexington Dr. West Columbia, SC 29170 Lexington Hall, Room 170 (803) 822-3749 www.midlandstech.edu	College admissions, financial literacy, GED referral assistance
Richland County Library Main	1431 Assembly Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 799-9084 www.richlandlibrary.com	Assistance in earning a high school diploma

SELECTIVE SERVICE

According to law, a man must register with Selective Service within 30 days of his 18th birthday. Selective Service accepts late registrations up until a man reaches his 26th birthday.

Failure to register is a felony and non-registrants may be denied the following benefits for life:

- Federal (and some state) student loans and grant programs
- Federal job training under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (formerly Workforce Investment Act)
- Federal (and many state and local) jobs or security clearance as a contractor
- Up to a 5-year delay of U.S. citizenship proceedings for immigrants

What Can You Do if You Did Not Register and are Now 26 or Older?

If you failed to register prior to reaching age 26 and are now being denied eligibility for federal or state benefits due to your failure to register, you can explain to the official handling your case (for example, a student financial aid officer) the reasons for your failure to register with Selective Service.

Pursuant to federal law, a person required to register with Selective Service, but who failed to register, may not be denied any federal right or benefit if he can show that his failure to register was not knowing and willful. See 50 U.S.C. 3811(g). The final decision regarding a non-registrant's eligibility for employment lies with the department or agency granting the right or benefit.

The burden of proof is on the person seeking the denied right or benefit.

You may be asked for an official response from the Selective Service System, which is referred to as a "status information letter."

What is a Status Information Letter?

A Status Information Letter from Selective Service states the facts surrounding your registration status with the Selective Service System. It states whether or not you are registered with Selective Service and whether or not you were required to register with Selective Service or if you are exempt from the registration requirement.

You are exempt from Selective Service registration if you can prove you were continuously institutionalized or confined from 30 days before you turned 18 through age 25. If you were released for any period longer than 30 days during this window, you were required to register with the Selective Service System.

For Selective Service to determine this exemption, the following supporting documentation is needed when you mail your status information letter request form:

- Proof that your dates of confinement or institutionalization are accurate
- Proof that you were continuously incarcerated, or never released for any period of 30 days or longer.

For more information, go to www.sss.gov/Home or call 888.655.1825 (Toll-free)

OTHER RESOURCES

Midlands Fatherhood Coalition

The mission of the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition is to engage fathers in the positive support of their children and to enhance support for fatherhood throughout the Midlands. They help fathers connect to other services they need so they can meet their responsibilities and secure their parental rights. They also offer job coaching and employment connections that benefit fathers, their families and employers in the Midlands. www.milandsfathers.com

<u>Lexington:</u>	Richland:	<u>Sumter:</u>
943 East Main Street	1420 Colonial Life Blvd. Suite 80	21 N. Harvin Street
Lexington, SC 29072	Columbia, SC 29210	Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 996-2114	(803) 933-0052	(803) 774-2140

Turn90

Formerly known as Turning Leaf, Turn90 is an South Carolina-based reentry organization that works with men at the highest risk of re-arrest. It combines cognitive behavioral classes, case management, transitional work, and job placement to create an opportunity for success after prison. https://turnninety.com

<u>Charleston Office:</u>	Columbia Office:
3765 Leeds Ave	630 Blue Ridge Terrace
N. Charleston, SC 29405	Columbia, SC 29203
(843) 297-4980	(803) 234-2287

Second Chance Reentry Resource Guide

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs has published a document called the Second Chance Reentry Resource Guide. The purpose of that guide is similar to this one and it contains local, state, and national resources potentially helpful to returning citizens. Of particular note, it has separate sections for every county in South Carolina and lists resources available in that county. It is available to download from their website at: https://cma.sc.gov/second-chance

Interstate Compact Transfer

If you will still be under supervision after release but desire to live and work in another state, it is possible to request an interstate compact transfer. This can only be done online through ICOTS. The Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS) is a web-based system that facilitates the transfer of supervision for probationers and parolees from one state to another.

A transfer request must be submitted electronically through ICOTS and must consist of an application form and any additional documents as deemed necessary by the receiving state. An example of the application form is on the following page.

https://www.interstatecompact.org



Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision OFFENDER'S APPLICATION FOR INTERSTATE COMPACT TRANSFER

SECTION 1: STATE INFORMATION				
To:	Date:		Phone #:	
From:			Fax #:	
	SECTION 2: OFFENDER	INFORMATION		
Offender's full name (Last, First, MI):		Offender numb	er:	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		Sending State #:	Receiving	State #:
AKA:				
SS# (if available):	FBI# (if available):	Sex:	Race:	DOB:
(== == ================================				
	L	I		
I understand that my supervision in another the receiving state will determine the many believe that transferring my supervision to in the community. I FULLY UNDERSTAN KNOWINGLY WAIVE ANY CHALLENG SUPERVISION IN THE STATE TO WHICE application is made to consider my request. In support of my application for transfer, I and allowed to transfer my supervisiat (full address/telephone #) until I am allowed by the supervising at (sending state) and 3. I understand that if I do not comply we on me, that it will be considered a violation of the supervision of the s	er state may be different than ther in which I will be supervised (receiving ID AND ACKNOWLEDGE A SE TO THESE REQUIREMENT THE THE THE THE THE THE THE THE THE TH	the supervision I would dead. I agree to accept state) will improve to LL OF THE ABOVE TS OF TRANSFER, In doing so I respectful services. The state been placed on respectiving state), I pland the state extradite me from But I also understanding or receiving state and I AGREE TO World agree and I AGREE TO World agree to Manager and I AGREE TO World agree to a green to Manager and I AGREE TO World agree to accept the state agree to Manager and I AGREE TO World agree to accept the state a	Id be subject to in the any differences that in my chances for making CONDITIONS AND INCLUDING THE Coully request the authors of the receiving state or the receiving state or the sending state) to sion. This consent resembles consent resembles the receiving state or the om the receiving state and and acknowledgate. Therefore, I agreed VAIVE ANY RIGHT TILY.	nis state, and that may exist because I ng a good adjustment D FREELY AND CONDITIONS OF orities to whom this , , aced on me by tate, or both, placed eate. I any authorized emains in effect from receiving state. I te or any other state ge that I have agreed e that I will not
Printed name:				
Witness:		Date:		
Printed name:				

CHURCHES

As you transition into your new life on the outside, your success in staying on the right path, your ability to overcome harmful habits, and the quality of your life will largely depend on what community you choose to be a part of. A healthy church is the kind of community that will provide you with the love, encouragement, accountability, and spiritual nourishment that you will need. There are hundreds of churches in the Columbia area, many of which are healthy and might be a good fit for you. The following short list includes churches that we specifically partner with and where we know that returning citizens and their families will always receive a warm welcome.

Contact and service information are provided below:

Name	Contact Information	Service Times
Columbia Crossroads Church	2723 Ashland Rd Columbia, SC 29210 (803) 772-7792 www.columbiacrossroads.org	Sunday 9:30am and 11:00am
God's Church of Destiny	3946 West Beltline Boulevard Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 361-7211 or (803) 381-3470 www.godschurchofdestiny.org	Sunday 11:00am
Sandhills Community Church	3513 Hardscrabble Road Columbia, SC 29223 (803) 699-7112 www.sandhillschurch.org	Sunday 9:30am and 11:00am
Temple Zion Baptist Church	1174 Heyward Brockington Road Columbia, SC 29203 (803) 754-0933 www.templezbc.org	Sunday: 9:45am: Christian Life Today 11:00am: Worship Service Wednesday: 6:00pm: Prayer Service 7:00pm: Bible Study Thursday: 11:00am: Bible Study
Calvary Chapel Northeast	1120 Sparkleberry Ln Columbia, SC 29223 (803) 865-1542 https://www.ccnortheast.org	Sunday: 9:00am & 11:00am Wednesday: 7:00 pm

BECOMING A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST

The T&T Project is a Christian organization. That is, we are followers of Jesus Christ. We love others because God loved us and rescued us from the path of destruction that we were on. Our prayer for you is that you receive the same forgiveness, peace, joy, love, and new life that we have found. When Jesus walked on this Earth as a man, He issued a simple, direct invitation to those He encountered: "Come, follow me." That is still His invitation to you and to me today. If you want to become a follower of Jesus Christ, we've summarized the process in a simple, biblical approach that is easy to remember. We call it the five "T's" of salvation.

1. Acknowledge and believe the **TRUTH**.

- a. <u>Truth about God</u>: God is real. He is the Creator of all things and the ultimate judge. He alone determines what is right and wrong. Any disobedience and rebellion against Him is sin, and the consequence for sin is death punishment and eternal separation from Him. Nevertheless, God loves me and wants to adopt me into His family.
- b. <u>Truth about me</u>: I am a sinner. I deserve God's punishment. There is nothing I can do on my own to earn His forgiveness.
- c. <u>Truth about Jesus</u>: God sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life as a human being, die a horrible death, and take my punishment on Himself. Because Jesus paid the price for my sins, I can be forgiven, my sins can be completely erased, and my record wiped clean. Because Jesus conquered death, I too can look forward to life in His Presence forever.

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

2. **TELL** God my sin.

The Bible calls this confession. I must acknowledge the wrong that I've done, taking responsibility for my actions and not blaming anyone else. I humbly ask God for forgiveness.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

3. **TRUST** God to forgive my sins and give me new life.

There is nothing I can do to earn salvation; it is a gift of God given out of His grace, mercy, and love. There is also no level of sin that I've committed that is beyond the scope of God's forgiveness. I must trust the finished work of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to completely wipe away every sin off my record and grant me access to right standing with God and eternal life in His Presence.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8–9

4. **TURN** from a life of sin to a life of surrender to God and service to others. The Bible calls this repentance. The word "repent" simply means to reverse course. It is a conscious decision and commitment to leave behind old, sinful ways, and follow a totally new path. In fact, the Bible uses much more graphic imagery; it says we are to die to sin. This is not so much a matter of willpower or ability to clean ourselves up, but of willingness to turn away from sin and turn to God.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Isaiah 55:7

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Romans 6:1–2

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11

5. Be **TRANSFORMED** by the Spirit of God working within me.

This is an ongoing process called sanctification. I am still imperfect and infected with a sin nature, so I still wrestle with temptation and brokenness. However, God's Spirit within me has brought a new nature to life and the more I feed that new nature with the Word of God, prayer, fellowship with other believers, worship, etc., the more I am transformed to become like Christ. This doesn't happen automatically. It takes conscious, dedicated effort (that's why these activities are called spiritual disciplines).

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24

Final Note

If you have chosen to take these steps and become a follower of Christ, welcome to the family! Remember, this is the beginning of a lifelong journey, not a check in the box, so don't stop here. Surround yourself with other believers and soak in the Word of God so you can grow. Also, though this decision is deeply personal, it is not meant to remain private. Don't hesitate to let others know that God has rescued you and you're on a new path. We'd love to hear about your decision as well so please write to us and let us know. God be with you!