The Union County Smart Book

A Resource Guide for Returning Home

2022 Edition
by
The New Jersey Department of Corrections
Office of Programming & Supportive Services

Useful Numbers and Hotlines

American Friends Service Committee
Prisoner's Resource Center.....1-973-643-2205

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines
Spanish.....1-800-344-7432
English.....1-800-227-8922

Addictions Hotline of NJ.....1-800-238-2333

Alcoholics Anonymous of Central NJ.....1-609-298-7785

Division of Disability Services (DDS).....1-888-285-3036

Division of Youth & Family Services.....1-800-792-8610

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation Hotline.....1-800-433-0254

Legal Services of New Jersey…… 1-888-576-5529

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
Driver's License Suspension & Restoration ...1-609-292-7500
Main Information.....1-888-486-3339

Narcotics Anonymous of NJ Helpline.....1-800-992-0401

National Suicide Crisis Hotline.....1-800-784-2433

New Jersey AIDS STD Hotline
(Beth Israel) ……1-800-624-2377

2-1-1 First Call For Help..... 2-1-1
Se habla español or toll free.....1-800-331-7272

Union County One Stop
Elizabeth.....…908-558-8000
Plainfield……..908-757-9090
Satellite Center, Union County College……...908-659-5214

Social Security Office.....1-800-772-1213

Service Empowering Rape Victims
(SERV)..... 1-866-295-SERV

Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline
(Womanspace, Inc.)
Bilingual and TTY accessible.....1-800-572-7233

The Union County Smart Book

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First Things First: How to Use this Book

The purpose of this book is to help you get ready to leave prison, return home, and find what you need to get back on your feet. It is specifically focused on what you'll need to know during the first weeks and months that you're back, which can be a time of difficult adjustment. In order to make the transition smoother for you a list of resources have been compiled along with a list of necessary items you will find that are essential to your success. This book focuses on the first few weeks and months of your arrival home and assisting you on managing the transition. Although not ever resource available to you will be found here, there are many that will help to guide your journey.

Unless a fee or charge is listed, all of the services and resources listed here are free; however, please note that the fees and charges listed in this guide are subject to change.

Each section of this book is categorized by items that you will need in order to find employment, return to school, and to obtain identification. It will also provide addresses, websites, phone numbers and general tips on how to acquire particular services. You can use the table of contents to easily identify what service you require, and follow instructions as to how to contact providers.

FYI: ***Please feel free to utilize your social services department for assistance in contacting agency or inquiring information about a service found in this book. There are some services that may be free to you that you can contact through your social services department before making an out-of-pocket expense.*

There are a few things that can be completed prior to release from prison. Two things specifically are requesting a duplicate social security card for **FREE** and applying for a birth certificate for a **fee**. Please contact your social worker six months prior to release to apply for these items. By doing this while still in custody, you are taking a large step towards making your transition back into the community easier for you. Providing both documents are processed successfully, you will have two necessary forms of identification made available to you the day you are released. This will speed up the process of finding employment.

You won't find here every service or organization in **Union County,** but again, this book should give you a place to start. The organizations that are listed can help refer you to other places in the area that can be of help to you. For current information as services change procedure and or cost please visit www.njsuccess.org. . Please visit www.ucnj.org for further county information. **The local libraries listed on page 41 can assist you in obtaining internet access.**

Getting Started:

Identification (I.D.) and Other Documents

In order to apply for employment, rent an apartment, apply for general assistance, food stamps or Medicaid, proper identification will be required. The more identification you have in your possession, the easier it will be for you to obtain these services. Certain items can be obtained while you are still incarcerated. Ask your social worker for assistance and for the remainder, this book will point you in the right direction.

FYI: In order to obtain identification, various agencies will require proof of address. It is smart to keep bills in your name or official documents that have your name and address for further verification of your address.



A. Social Security Card

If at all possible, apply for a duplicate social security card with your social worker six months prior to release. If for some reason this is not possible or your application has been denied, you will need to visit your closest Social Security Office to apply. The following office is local branch in Union County

Social Security Administration
855 Lehigh Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

Union Office: 1-877-803-6306
Toll-free: 1-800-772-1213
TTY: 1-800-325-0778

Hours: Mon, Tu, Thu, Fri 9:00am-3:00pm
Wed 9:00am-12:00pm

If you choose to visit your local office to apply you will need to fill out the application at the office.
To save time you can download the application online www.ssa.gov/replace_sscard.html. You will need to show proof of identification. **Prison release papers count as proof of address. Also, use your NJDOC Temporary ID card**.



B. Birth Certificate

The Office of Vital Statistics in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services keeps all New Jersey birth records. The fee for a copy is **$25.00.** However, depending upon where you were born in Union County, you may be able to apply for a birth certificate for a lesser fee.

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration
P.O. Box 370
Trenton, NJ 08625-0370

Contact Information for the NJ Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration:
1-609-292-4087
1-866-649-8726 (toll-free nationwide)

FYI: You are able to apply for a birth certificate while you are still in custody and have six months left prior to your release. Please see your social worker to do so.

If you were born in the following towns you may go to your registrar's office and apply for a birth certificate. Please call the respective offices regarding office hours and fees.

Berkeley Heights Township
29 Park Avenue
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

Clark Township
Municipal Building
430 Westfield Avenue
Clark, NJ 07066
Phone: (732) 428-8405
Fax: (732) 388-3839

Cranford Township
Municipal Building
8 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016
Phone: 908-709-7238

Elizabeth City
City Hall Room G-12
50 Winfield Scott Plaza
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
Phone: (908) 820-4082
Fax: (908) 820-4290

Fanwood Borough
Municipal Building
75 No. Martine Ave.
Fanwood, NJ 07023
Phone: (908) 322-8236
Fax: (908) 322-7178

Garwood Borough
Municipal Building
403 South Ave
Garwood, NJ 07027
Phone: (908) 789-0710
Fax: (908) 789-7978

Hillside Township
Municipal Building
1409 Liberty Avenue

Hillside, NJ 07205
Phone: 973-926-4535
Fax: 973-926-5589

Kenilworth Borough
Board of Health
575 Boulevard
Kenilworth, NJ 07033
Phone: 908-276-2740

Linden City
City Hall
301 North Wood Avenue
Linden, NJ 07036
Phone: 908-474-8452
Fax: 908-474-8452

Mountainside Borough
1385 Route #22 East
Mountainside, NJ 07092
Phone: (908) 232-2400
Fax: (908) 232-6831

New Providence Borough
Boro Hall
360 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974
Phone: (908) 665-1400
Fax: (980) 665-9272

Plainfield City
City Hall- Vital Stat
510 Watchung Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060
Phone: (908) 753-3093
Fax: (908) 753-3540

Rahway City
Health Department
1 City Hall Plaza
Rahway, NJ 07065
Phone: (732) 827-2172
Fax: (732) 381-7668

Roselle Borough
210 Chestnut Street 2nd Floor
Roselle, NJ 07203
Phone: (908) 259-3032

Roselle Park Borough
110 E. Westfield Avenue
Roselle Park, NJ 07204-2083
Phone: (908) 245- 8466
Fax: (908) 245-5598

Scotch Plains Township
Bozena Lacina
Municipal Building
430 Park Avenue
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
Phone: 908-322-6700 x212

Springfield Township
100 Mountain Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081
Phone: 973-912-2200
Fax: 973-912-2277

Summit City
Health Department
City Hall
512 Springfield Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901
Phone: 908-277-6464

Union Township
1976 Morris Avenue
P.O. Box 3609
Union, NJ 07083
Phone: (908) 851-8507
Fax: (908) 851-4673

Westfield Town
Municipal Building
425 E. Broad Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: 908-789-4070
Fax: 908-789-4076

Winfield Township
12 Gulfstream Avenue
Winfield, NJ 07036
Phone: (908) 925-3850
Fax: (908) 925-4526

C. County Identification

The Union County Clerk's Office no longer provides county issued photo identification cards, however you may obtain a state issued photo identification card from your local motor vehicle agency. Motor Vehicle Commission locations are listed below.



D. Driver's License

Once you are released from prison, you can go to the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to get a new driver's license, replace a lost one, or renew a card that has expired. If you believe that your license has been suspended, you should confirm this and figure out what you need to do to get it back. If

you were convicted of any king of drug offense, your license has been suspended.

PRE-RELEASE: You can request a copy of your driver's license record, which is called a "driver history abstract." Please contact your social worker if you are interested in obtaining an abstract. **The fee for an abstract is $15.00.**

POST-RELEASE: Once you are out, you can go to the MVC offices in Union County (see below) to request a driver history abstract. If you have internet access, you can also request an abstract online at www.state.nj.us.mvc. You will still have to pay **$15.00**. If your license was suspended for 6 months or more because of a drug conviction, the period of the suspension will begin from the time of your release. Other kinds of suspension, such as for failure to pay parking tickets, insurance surcharges, or child support, will last until you have paid the fine or worked out a payment plan. For questions about suspension, call the suspension hotline: **1-609-292-7500.**

Restoration Fees, Tickets, and Surcharges: If you found out that your license has been suspended, you will have to pay a restoration fee of $100.00 in order to have your license reinstated. This does not include any additional fines or surcharges you are required to pay. This fee can be paid at your local MVC offices in Union County or a Regional Service Center (see below). If you have internet access, this fee can be paid online at www.state.nj.us/mvc. You can pay your surcharges and parking tickets on this website as well.

MVC LOCATIONS IN UNION COUNTY
For questions, please call 609-292-6500

Plainfield: 1600 South 2nd St
Plainfield, NJ 07063
Mon-Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Sat. 7:00 am – 12:00 pm
**Inspection only*

Rahway: 1140 Woodbridge Rd. & East Hazelwood Avenue
Rahway, NJ 07065
Agency, Driver Testing:
M,W,Th,F 8:00am-5:30pm
Tu 8:00am-7:30pm
Sat 8:00am-1:00pm
Inspection:
M–F 8:00am-4:30pm
Sat 7:00am-12:00pm
Road Testing:
Tu–F 8:00am-4:00pm

Springfield: 34 Center St.
Springfield, NJ 07081
Agency
M, W, Th, F 8:00am-5:30pm

Tu 8:00am-7:30pm
Sat 8:00am-1:00pm

Westfield: 410 South Avenue East
Westfield, NJ 07090
Inspection (appointment only)
M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

Motor Vehicle Commission Regional Service Center

The Trenton Site
120 S. Stockton and Front Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
Services: Driver conferences, driver records, insurance and inquiries, points and surcharge inquiries, suspensions and restorations.
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm; Sat 8:00am-12:00pm

E. Non-driver's State Identification

New Jersey (NJVMC) provides Non-Driver photo ID cards. **You can get this official state ID even if your driver's license is currently suspended,** so this may be a good option for you if it looks like it will take you a long time to get your license back. You will still need to bring the kinds of identification documents described above, under the new Six-Point system to the MVC.

To replace a lost of stolen license, you will have to bring identification to the MVC and pay a $15.00 fee. The MVC now has very specific kinds of I.D. that are required under the new "Six Point" System:
Please use this guide to prepare yourself for your trip to MVC. Make sure you have the six points of identification necessary to obtain your driver's license or non-drivers I.D.

SIX POINT SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION

Primary Documents:
(4 Points)

- Birth Certificate or Certified Copy from one of the 50 states.
- U.S. Dept. of State Birth Certificate
- US Passport-Current or Expired less than 3 years
- Current US Passport card
- Current NJ Digital Drivers License
- Valid Active Duty US Military Photo ID Card
- US Adoption papers
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship

Secondary Documents:
(3 Points)

- Civil Marriage/Domestic partnership/ Civil Union Certificate: Issued by the Municipality or State
- Order of Decree of Divorce

- Court Order for Legal Name Change: Signed by a judge or county clerk
- US Military Photo/Retiree Card

(2 Points)

- U.S. Military Discharge Papers (DD214)

(1 Point)

- Current/ Expired (Less than 1 year) Non-Digital NJ Photo Drivers License
- Social Security Card
- Bank statement or record
- ATM Card w/ pre-printed name and applicant signature
- NJ Public Assistance Card w/ Photo
- High School Diploma/GED/ College Diploma
- Veterans Affairs-Universal Access Photo ID Card

You can get a brochure on this new "Six Point" system from the MVC offices listed above or from the Motor Vehicle Commission website, www.state.nj.us/mvc. If your license has expired, you will have to go with your six points of I.D. to the MVC to fill out a renewal application. You may have to take the written test again. License renewal costs **$24.00**.

F. Certificates of Naturalization or Citizenship

This certificate is necessary for employment upon your release. In general, if you need to replace lost forms, you can contact the US Citizenship & Immigration Service or Application Support Centers to find out about identification and fingerprint verifications. There is a fee to process an application for replacement documents. The National Customer Service Hotline is 1-800-375-5283.

CITIZENSHIP LOCATIONS

US Citizenship and Immigration Services
National Customer Service Center
425 I Street, Washington, DC
1-800-375-5283

Mount Laurel Field Office
530 Fellowship Road
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Peter Rodino, Jr. Federal Building
970 Broad St.
Newark, NJ 07102

Application Support Centers
USCIS Application Support Center
285 North Broad St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

116 Kansas St., Main Floor
Hackensack, NJ 07601-4044

G. Alien Registration Card ("Green Card")

To replace a missing Green Card, you must go to the US Citizenship & Immigration Services Office (see above), bring identification, and fill out USCIS Form I-90 form. Please make sure that you bring I.D. with you.

You can also visit the website and download the forms at www.uscis.gov. It costs **$450** for processing. **If you have any questions or concerns about your status as a result of your criminal conviction, call Central Jersey Legal Services – Elizabeth Office at 1-908-354-4340 before going to immigration.**

Central Jersey Legal Services – Office Listings
60 Prince Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
Phone: (908) 354-4340
Fax: (908) 354-4361
Telephone for the Hearing Impaired: (908) 558-1642

New Brunswick
317 George Street, Suite 201
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: (732) 249-7600
Fax: (732) 249-7966

Trenton
198 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone: (609) 695-6249
Fax: (609) 392-7952

Perth Amboy
313 State St., Suite 308
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 324-1613
Fax: (732) 324-6253

H. Military Discharge Papers

FYI: You may have the opportunity to meet with the Veterans Administration (VA) liaison from the Veteran's Administration during your incarceration. The VA liaison can assist you in requesting a copy of your DD214 (discharge papers) by completing the SF-180 form. Please notify your institution's social worker for assistance with your requests and to obtain information on your veteran status. You can also obtain the SF-180 by writing the Veteran Benefit Administration in NJ or the NPRC, which is the main record depository.

Veterans Benefit Administration in New Jersey
20 Washington Pl., 3rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Main records depository
NPRC, 9700 Page Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Union County Office of Veteran Affairs
Director: Richard Thompson
10 Elizabeth Plaza, 4th Floor Administration Bldg.
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
908-659-7407
Toll-free Veterans Hotline: 866-640-7115
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Upon your release, you can also visit the following website to request military records: www.vetrecs.archives.gov. Once on the website, follow the on screen instructions for requesting personnel records. You will be asked to print out a signature page which can either be mailed or faxed. Upon receiving the form, the records will be mailed directly to you.



I. Passport

Although a passport may not seem important at this point, it can serve you well as a form of widely accepted identification. There are fees involved in obtaining your passport. To obtain your passport you may visit the Union County Clerk's Office at:

Union County Clerk's Office
Elizabeth-Union County Courthouse
2 Broad St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
908-527-4787
Business and Passport Office: M-F 7:30am-4:30pm

Westfield-Union County Colleen Fraser Building
300 North Avenue East
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 654-9859
M,W,F 8:00am-4:00pm
Tu and Th 8:00am-7:30pm
Sat 9:00am-1:00pm

You will need to bring:

- ✓ An original or certified copy of a birth certificate with a raised seal and file date issued by Vital Statistics
- ✓ A naturalization certificate, if applicable
- ✓ Official military I.D., if applicable
- ✓ A previous US passport; photocopies are not accepted.
- ✓ A valid driver's license or three types of identification and a witness.
- ✓ One passport photo 2x2 inches in size

$110 passport fee-Check or money order ONLY payable to the "U.S. Department of State"
$35 execution fee-Cash, check, money order payable to the "Union County Clerk", MasterCard or Visa.
$10 photo-Cash, check, money order, MasterCard or Visa

FYI: A passport will be valid for 10 years.

J. NJDOC Release Papers/Temporary I.D. Card

Make sure you keep your prison release papers and temporary I.D. card. Your release papers can serve as identification in some circumstances and your I.D. card is valid for 30 days. These items along with several others will all be included in your *Fair Release and Re-Entry* Act **(FRARA)** folder given to you on the day of release.

First Steps after Release: Where Do I Go to Find …

This section provides resources for food, shelter, clothing, money and other emergency needs. We have provided some resource options in Union County that you can utilize upon release.

FYI: Important paperwork will be needed repeatedly throughout your life. Make sure to invest in a folder or safe to keep important documents. **Never** carry your birth certificate or social security card with you. You will only need to produce these items upon request. It is smarter to keep them in a safe place. Leaving them with someone could also result in your documents getting lost so be very careful.

Also, make sure to keep a notebook and a pen with you to write down the names and phone numbers of the people you come in contact with at various agencies. Remember, nobody is going to care about your success as much as you do.

Provided for you are agencies and services that can assist you in finding your basic needs.

FYI: It is a good idea to call first to check that the hours of operation haven't changed. Please try to be patient with those that are attempting to assist you.

See the following pages for list of resources.

A. First Stops

The agencies below provide either a range of services and/or can refer you to other agencies, depending on what you need.

FIRST-STOP AGENCIES

2-1-1/First Call for Help

211 provides 24-hour, comprehensive, human service information and referral for residents of Union County. 211 can help access information and locate services/programs that

connect residents to the resources that are available to them in the community. Dial 211, which can be accessed from the internet, cell phone or landline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 211 is equipped for TTY callers and has a language line to connect to 140 different languages. Dial 800-331-7272 for the Homeless Hotline, which addresses emergencies and homeless calls.

United Way of Greater Union County
33 W. Grand Street
Elizabeth, N.J. 07202
(908) 353-7171
Email: info@uwguc.org

Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless
118 Division Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-355-2060
www.theelizabethcoalition.org

B. Shelter

These are some of the places providing temporary places to stay.

Family Promise of Union County
First Baptist Church
402 Union Ave.
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
908-289-7300 ext. 11
*Family shelter

HomeFirst Interfaith Housing and Family Services
1009 Park Ave.
Plainfield, N.J. 07060
(908) 753-4001

Proceed, Inc.
Administration
1126 Dickinson St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-351-7727

Satellite Office I
1122 East Grand St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-351-7727

Satellite Office II
120 West 7th St.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-351-7727

Bridgeway Rehabilitative Services
70 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 289-7330

Raphael's Life House
231 Court Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07206
(908) 354-4750
**For pregnant women only ages18-21*



FOOD PANTRIES/ SOUP KITCHENS

C. Food

There are three ways to get help with food: 1) public benefits to help purchase food, 2) food pantries that provide groceries, and 3) soup kitchens that provide hot or prepared food. Food stamps and other public benefits are discussed under "Money." Food pantries and soup kitchens are below.

FOOD PANTRIES/SOUP KITCHENS:

Elizabethport Presbyterian Center
184 First Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07206
908-351-4850
Fax: 908-351-8082
info@eportcenter.org
*Food pantry is open the last week open everyday 10-3 Bring Identification. Call and verify
Food Distribution:
154 First Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07206
Every Friday there is a food distribution for everyone 10-2pm

FISH Inc.
Dunnellen Area
P.O. Box 8565
Piscataway, NJ 08855
24 Hour Hotline: (732) 356-0081
admin@fishdunellenarea.org

St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Food for friends)
1221 New Brunswick Ave.
P.O. Box 1882
Rahway, NJ 07065
(732) 381-7201
*Emergency food pantry on the third Monday and Tuesday of the last full week of the month.
Proof of income, ID, Address.

Heard AME Church
310 Rev. TR Goyins Plaza
Roselle, N.J. 07203
PH-908-241-5588
FX-908-241-7383

Heard.Church@verizon.net
*Food pantry is open every Saturday from 10:00-12:00pm (except the first Saturday of the month). *Applications to receive food (accompanied by proper identification) are not accepted after 11:30am.*

Rahway Food for Friends
First Presbyterian Church
1731 Church St.
Rahway, NJ 07065
Soup kitchen: Every Saturday of the month

Seventh Day Adventist Church
1221 Bew Brunswick Ave.
Rahway, NJ 07065
Food pantry: Every last Monday and Tuesday of the month (free clothing is available to all patrons on distribution dates)

Jewish Family Services of Central Jersey
655 Westfield Ave.,
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
908-352-8375
Proof of Address, ID
Office: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-4:30pm
Fri 9:00-3:30pm
Monthly non-perishable food packages

HILLSIDE FOODBANK
31 EVANS TERMINAL, HILLSIDE, NJ 07205
908-355-3663

SALVATION ARMY-ELIZABETH
1005 E. Jersey St. 07202
908- 352-7057
*Food pantry: help with groceries by appointment.
*Soup kitchen: Lunched served 12:00pm-2:00pm, Mon-Fri During the last two weeks of each month.

Salvation Army-Plainfield
615 Watching Avenue,
Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 756-2595
Must call for appointment
Soup kitchen: M, W, Th, F 11:45am-1:00pm

Westfield Food Pantry at Holy Trinity
336 1ST Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-232-8137
Food pantry open five mornings per week, call for an appointment. Please call and have a prescreening done

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry at Saint Teresa

306 Morris Ave.
Summit, NJ 07901
908-277-3700
Pantry open Wednesday from 8:30am-10:30am

Helping Hands-Church of Saint Joseph the Carpenter
157 E. 4th Avenue
Roselle, NJ 07203
908-241-1250
Food pantry open on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Call for hours.

Grace's Kitchen
600 Cleveland Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-765-1520
Soup kitchen open last five days of every month (except Sundays) 11:30am-1:00pm

St. John the Apostle Pantry
1805 Penbrook Terrace
Linden, NJ 07036
732-388-1216 or 908-486-6363
Pantry open the2nd and 4th Friday of each month except for holidays and special events. Call for hours.

St. Joseph Social Service Center
118 Division Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-352-2989
*Food pantry: M, Tu, Th 9:00-12:00pm, 1:00-4:00pm
*Soup kitchen: Saturday 11:30am-1:00pm

D. Free Or Low Cost Clothing Sources



Goodwill Stores
126 Route 22 West
Springfield, NJ 07081
(973) 912-0156
Mon-Wed 9:00am-8:00pm
Thu-Sat 9:00am-9:00pm
Sun-10:00am-8:00pm

Holy Cross Thrift Shop
40 Mercer Ave
North Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 753-2888
Tue 2:00-4:00pm. Fri 6:30pm-8:30pm
Sat 9:00am-12:00pm

Jumble Store Thrift & Consignment Shop
110 Walnut Ave
Cranford, NJ 07016

(908) 276-0222

Unique Thrift Store
116 Broad St
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
(908) 994-0600

The Salvation Army
615 Watching Ave
Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 756-2595



E. Transportation

There is no general program to provide assistance paying for transportation. Though NJ Transit no longer accepts release papers in substitute for bus tickets. However, you may purchase transit tickets from NJDOC for $2.00 prior to your release, which will assist you with reaching your destination.

Some of the programs listed in this book will provide bus passes to help you participate in a particular program. If you are assigned to a community/social service or reporting program, you may want to ask if the program offers transportation assistance.

For specific bus, rail or train schedules and fares, you may call NJ Transit: 973-275-5555, NJ Text Telephone: 800-772-2287 or visit the NJ Transit Website: http://www.njtransit.com. For specific route information on the website, click on the “trip planner”. For your Union County travel convenience, you may want to purchase weekly, monthly or discounted transit passes (when applicable).

If you are going to drive places, remember that you **must** have a valid driver’s license, and you **must** have insurance for any vehicle that you are driving.

Transportation for senior citizens and people with disabilities:

Union County Paratransit
908-241-8300
www.ucnj.org

Office of Amtrak Access
800-872-7245

Greyhound Customers with Disabilities Travel Assistance Line
800-752-4841



F. Money: FS/GA

Once you are released from custody, you will need a source of income, at least temporarily, until you can find a job. (See section under "Finding a Job" for information about looking for work). **The DOC does not provide "gate money," except for any money you may have in your inmate account. If it is possible to save any money before you get out; you should try to do so.** Parole may give emergency funds, based on need, but it's at their discretion – ask your parole officer about this.

You may be able to get some kind of public assistance ("welfare"), but not everyone qualifies for this. Listed below are some basics on seeking and applying for benefits.

Work First New Jersey Program (WFNJ)

WFNJ provides cash benefits (General Assistance) for single people and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families for people who have custody of their children. Both programs will require you to work or actively look for work and both have a five-year lifetime limit. Work First New Jersey also has an Emergency Assistance program that you may qualify for if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless: it can pay for things like food, clothing and transportation costs to look for housing, but also utility payments and temporary rental or mortgage payment assistance. You can contact your social worker for more information.

FYI: Please call your local office to verify what the eligibility requirements are for obtaining General Assistance.

NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)

You may apply for NJ SNAP while applying for GA/TANF. If you were convicted after August 22, 1996 of a drug distribution or sales offense, you may still be able to get NJ SNAP if you have completed or are enrolled in a licensed drug treatment program, or completed a program in prison and are drug free (you will be tested). Same goes for possession offenses. Please contact the Division of Welfare in Hudson County to inquire.

Union County Division of Social Services

Elizabeth Location

343 Westminster Ave.
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
Phone: 908-965-3706
Fax: 908-965-2752
Plainfield Location
200 West 2nd St.
Plainfield, NJ 07063
Phone: 908-791-7000
Fax: 908-791-7098

G. Veterans Benefits:

If you were receiving veteran's benefits (disability or pension) and you were incarcerated for more than 60 days, you will have to get reinstated after you are released. If you were not receiving benefits and you are a veteran, you may be eligible for benefits or for some of their other programs and services, including healthcare. You can contact the VA for questions about benefits at 800-827-1000; the health benefit number is 877-222-VETS. The 24 hour veterans mental health hotline is 1-866-VETS-NJFU.

VA Benefit Administration (Regional Office)
20 Washington Place, 3rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
973-645-1441

Union County Office of Veterans Affairs
10 Elizabeth Plaza, 4th Floor Administration Building
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
Phone: 908-659-4707
Fax: 908-527-4172
Veterans' Interment: 908-527-4717
Toll-Free Veterans Hotline: 866-640-7115
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Visit this local VA office to reinstate benefits or apply for new programs and services.

The following are some websites that can assist you in looking for information about veteran services:

Federal Veterans Information:
www.va.gov

Info for NJ Veterans:
www.vetsinfo.com

New Jersey Dept. of Veterans Affairs: www.state.nj.us/military

New Jersey Veterans Guide:
www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide

VA Home Loans:
www.homeloans.va.gov

Veterans Counseling Service Center:
www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html

OTHER BENEFIT PROGRAMS: You may be eligible for other cash benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability Benefits. If you are seriously disabled and cannot work, call 1-800-772-1213 and the Women's, Infants, Children (WIC) program, which gives food vouchers to low-income parents. Inquire about WIC at the city or county welfare offices.

Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support

The transition from prison back to society may take some time to get used to and we want to provide you with options to lessen the burden. Taking care of your mind and body will be important for your success. Below are a few places that may be of assistance.

Taking Care of Yourself:
LGBTQ+ Resources



Garden State Equality

Garden State Equality lifts up the diverse voices of LGBTQ+ communities through education and advocacy to advance the movement for equality in New Jersey and nationally.

Are you a Trans person who needs help changing your name in New Jersey? Garden State Equality is here to help! Learn more about **updating identification documents** at GSE's website:
https://www.gardenstateequality.org/take-action/update-id/

1408 Main Street
Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712
https://www.gardenstateequality.org/
(973) 509-5428

Equality Federation

Equality Federation is an advocacy accelerator rooted in social justice, building power in our network of state-based lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) advocacy organizations.
equalityfederation.org

The Pride Center of New Jersey

The mission of Pride Center of New Jersey is to provide a safe and welcoming space for all individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ to find support, educational tools, health and education resources, and social opportunities within a community of acceptance. Free HIV testing.

85 Raritan Avenue, Suite 100
Highland Park NJ, 08904-2430
(732) 846-2232

info@pridecenter.org

NJ Gay Life
Lists events throughout New Jersey to connect the LGBTQI+ community. Online directory of New Jersey businesses and a support group calendar organized by issues and geographic locations.
NJGayLife.com
PO Box 224, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
The PFLAG mission is to build on a foundation of loving families united with LGBTQI+ people and allies who support one another, and to educate ourselves and our communities to speak up as advocates until all hearts and minds respect, value and affirm LGBTQI+ people. To find a local chapter visit: https://pflag.org/find-a-chapter

Main Phone: (202) 467-8180
Fax: (202) 467-8194

Human Rights Campaign
Advocates for LGBTQI+ Americans, mobilizes grassroots action, and educates the public about LGBTQI+ issues.
www.hrc.org

SAMHSA Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration
Resources on the LGBTQI+ population include national survey reports, agency and federal initiatives, and related behavioral health resources from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Find Help and Treatment
The National Helpline provides 24-hour free and confidential referrals and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, treatment, and recovery in English and Spanish.
SAMHSA's National Helpline
800-662-HELP (4357)
TTY: 800-487-4889
For additional information on finding help and treatment options, visit www.samhsa.gov/find-treatment.
For general questions about SAMHSA, including information about mental and substance use disorders:
SAMHSAInfo@samhsa.hhs.gov
877-SAMHSA-7 (726-4727)
TTY: 800-487-4889

Edge New Jersey
The mission of EDGE New Jersey is to respond compassionately and responsibly to the HIV+ and LGBTQI+ communities by providing supportive services, housing

opportunities, prevention strategies and education to enhance the community we serve. The vision of EDGE is to empower those we serve to achieve a healthy, safe and self-sufficient life, providing the resources to positively influence their community.

CAN Clinic (Temporary)
3155 NJ State Route 10, Suite 204
Denville, NJ 07834
973-370-3130

EDGE CAN Wellness Center
295 East Main St
Denville, NJ 07834
973-285-0006

Hudson Pride Center Hudson Pride serves as an advocate and social service provider for both the LGBTQI+ and HIV/AIDS communities in Hudson County.

205 Brunswick St
Jersey City, NJ 07302

NHCAC Health Center
2nd Floor, 714 31st St
Union City, NJ 07087

(201) 963-4779
info@hudsonpride.org

PROUD Gender Center of New Jersey
At Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) New Brunswick it is a top priority to optimize health and well-being for every patient. The **LGBTQIA Program** is firmly rooted with that purpose in mind.
In full support of the transgender community, RWJUH provides a full suite of specialized services designed to bring you to the best "you" you can be.
At the Center, a multidisciplinary team of family medicine physicians, gynecologists, urologists, endocrinologists, plastic surgeons and otolaryngologists provides specialized care for LGBTQ patients. Hormone therapy and surgical procedures are offered to support the transition of transgender patients.

181 Somerset St., 2nd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
1-833-BH-PROUD (1-833-247-7683)

Lambda Legal
Founded in 1973, Lambda Legal is the oldest and largest national legal organization whose mission is to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals,

transgender people and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.
As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we do not charge our clients for legal representation or advocacy, and we receive no government funding.

National Headquarters
120 Wall Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10005-3919
212-809-8585

QSpot LGBT Community Center
QSpot fosters the health, well-being and pride of NJ's LGBT and allied community by providing resources, referrals, education, and outreach. QSpot works tirelessly to fulfill its mission while operating a safe and welcoming LGBT community center.

1601 Asbury Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
(732) 455-3373

HOTLINES /CRISIS INTERVENTION

The National Helpline provides 24-hour free and confidential referrals and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, treatment, and recovery in English and Spanish.
SAMHSA's National Helpline
800-662-HELP (4357)
TTY: 800-487-4889

Crisis Intervention/Suicide Prevention
The Trevor Project: (866) 488-7386
The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255 (online chat available)
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741
Crisis Text Line is free, 24/7 support for those in crisis. Text from anywhere in the USA to text with a trained Crisis Counselor.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender National Hotline: (888) 843-4564
The GLBT National Youth Talkline (youth serving youth through age 25): (800) 246-7743
Both provide telephone, online private one-to-one chat and email peer-support, as well as factual information and local resources for cities and towns across the United States.

Trans Lifeline: (877) 565-8860
Trans Lifeline is a trans-led organization that connects Trans people to the community, support, and resources they need to survive and thrive.

National AIDS Hotline (800) 342-AIDS / (800) 344-7432 (Spanish) / (800) 243-7889 (TDD)
Other Hotlines

U.S. National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233 (English and Spanish) (800) 787-3224 (TTY)
They also have an online chat feature available. Operating around the clock, seven days a week, confidential and free of cost, the National Domestic Violence Hotline provides lifesaving tools and immediate support to enable victims to find safety and live lives free of abuse. Highly trained, experienced advocates offer compassionate support, crisis intervention information and referral services in over 170 languages.

Pride Institute: (800) 547-7433 24/7
Chemical dependency/mental health referral and information hotline for the LGBTQ community.

Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN): (800) 656-HOPE / (800) 810-7440 (TTY)
The nation's largest organization fighting sexual violence, RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice.

Support for victims and survivors of sexual violence
Hotline: 1-866-295-SERV (7378)

Taking Care of Yourself: COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine
Call 211 for General COVID-19 Questions and information on how to stay safe, test sites, financial assistance, unemployment, donations, food, and other non-medical needs. (24/7)

Call 1-800-962-1253 (24/7) to speak to a healthcare professional at the NJ Poison Control Center about symptoms, when to seek medical attention and proper steps to take if exposed to COVID-19.

Call (COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing): **1-855-568-0545 (10a-6p, M-F; 10a-4p, Sa)**

Call (Medical COVID-19 Questions): **1-800-962-1253 (24/7)**

There are multiple ways to get a COVID-19 vaccine including:

1. Use the NJ Vaccine Appointment Finder to find available vaccination appointments near you or sites with walk-in vaccinations (no appointment needed).
2. Register with the NJ Vaccine Scheduling System to be notified when an appointment is available to you at vaccination locations that use the State's Vaccine Scheduling System.
3. Seniors 65+ can call the senior-specific hotline at **855-429-1168** from 8am to 8pm to schedule dedicated vaccine appointments
4. Many **VA** facilities and clinics are offering vaccines to veterans, their spouses, and their caregivers.



Taking Care of Yourself:
Health Care Resources

It is very important that you pay attention to your health during the period after you are released, to make sure you have a plan to get prescriptions that you need filled and to see a doctor if you have health conditions that need care. Also, stress and changes in routine can make many health conditions worse. Below, you'll find information on paying for healthcare and clinics and other resources in Union County.

Prior to your release, you will be given the opportunity to apply for Medicaid through the **Affordable Health Care Act (ACA).** ACA allows those with little or no income to be eligible for Medicaid under the new law. New Jersey residents completed an application for New Jersey Family Care and out of state residents complete an application for the Healthcare Marketplace. Applying for healthcare while at NJDOC allows enough time for processing to be completed and a health insurance card to be mailed to your residence with coverage beginning the day of your release. For more information regarding the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, please contact your social worker or visit www.njfamilycare.org or www.healthcare.gov. Below is some information regarding traditional Medicaid.

A. Health Care Benefits: Am I eligible?

In New Jersey, the **Medicaid** program provides health care benefits for some low-income people. If you gain custody of children under 18 when you are released, you may qualify if you are; *single, head of house and unemployed, or existing earnings are not enough to support the household* Other eligibility requirements include low-income status, over age 65, blindness, or inability to work due to a disability.

If you are disabled and are applying for SSI, you will also be screened for Medicaid at that time. If you qualify for General Assistance benefits, you will get some very basic health care benefits through Medicaid (Plan G). **Medicaid is a separate program from GA or TANF, so you don't have to be eligible for those benefits to qualify for Medicaid.**

For questions about Medicaid eligibility, or to apply for Medicaid in Union County go to:

Union County Division of Social Services
Elizabeth Location
343 Westminster Ave.
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
Phone: 908-965-3706
Fax: 908-965-2752
Plainfield Location
200 West 2nd St.
Plainfield, NJ 07063
Phone: 908-791-7000
Fax: 908-791-7098

If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for healthcare benefits through the **Veteran's Administration**, which provides a "Medical Benefits Package" for enrolled veterans. You can call 877-222-VETS for more information about eligibility and applying for benefits.

If you are HIV+ or have AIDS, you may also be eligible for the **AIDS Drug Distribution Program** (ADDP), which provides help paying for AIDS medication for people who don't have any other means of paying. **You can apply for this program before you are released**. Contact the **Aids Drug Distribution Program** at 609-588-7038 or toll free at 877-613-4533, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm to apply.

Easter Seals New Jersey provides information, referrals and loans of medical equipment (including wheelchairs) to people in need. For information call 732-257-6662.

B. General HealthCare Providers

Even if you do not have Medicaid or other health insurance or benefits, Union County has clinics that provide primary health care at low cost, sliding scale or for free. They are listed below. Most hospitals have charity care and you should ask about this if you go to a hospital emergency room for treatment.

UNION COUNTY HEALTHCARE LOCATIONS

Neighborhood Health Center Cardinal
Location: 950 Park Ave., Plainfield, NJ - 07060
Contact Phone: 908-754-5840
Services: adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, school-based services, obstetrics and gynecology, family

planning, dentistry, health education, social services, and after-hours care.

Neighborhood Health Center Elizabeth
Location: 184 1st St., Elizabeth, NJ - 07206
Contact Phone: 908-355-4459
Services: adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, school-based services, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, dentistry, health education, social services, and after-hours care.

Neighborhood Health Center Plainfield
Location: 1700-58 Myrtle Ave., Plainfield, NJ - 07063
Contact Phone: 908-753-6401
Services: adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, school-based services, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, dentistry, health education, social services, and after-hours care

Neighborhood Health Center, The Healthy Place
Location: 427 Darrow Ave., Plainfield, NJ - 07060
Contact Phone: 908-731-4288
Services: adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, school-based services, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, dentistry, health education, social services, and after-hours care.

Overlook at Union Hospital
1000 Galloping Hill Road
Union, NJ 07083
908-522-6300
ACUTE medical care only

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway
865 Stone Street
Rahway, NJ 07065
(732) 381-4200
ACUTE Medical Care only

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF CENTRAL NJ
Planned Parenthood Health Centers provide a variety of reproductive health services such as gynecological care, birth control services, pregnancy testing, STD testing and treatment, pre-natal care, primary care and cancer screenings. Not all centers provide the same services, so it's important to check before scheduling an appointment.

Health Centers
Elizabeth
Medical Services
1150 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
(908) 351-5384
Services: Abortion services, birth control, general health care, HIV testing, LGBT services, men's health care, morning-after pill (emergency contraception), pregnancy testing and

services, STD testing, treatment and vaccines and women's health care.

Plainfield
Medical Services
123 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 756-3736
Services: Abortion services, birth control, general health care, HIV testing, LGBT services, men's health care, morning-after pill (emergency contraception), pregnancy testing and services, STD testing, treatment and vaccines and women's health care.

Hospitals in Union County

Elizabeth General Hospital
225 Williamson St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
908-558-7043

Children's Specialized Hospital
150 New Providence Rd.
Mountainside, NJ 07092
445-373-5496

Kindred Hospital New Jersey-Rahway
865 Stone Street
Rahway, NJ 07065
732-453-2950

Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center
1200 Randolph Road
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-668-2200

Overlook Medical Center
99 Beauvoir Ave.
Summit, NJ 07901
908-522-2000

Runnels Specialized Hospital
40 Watchung Way
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
908-771-5700

Summit Oaks Hospital
19 Prospect Street
Summit, New Jersey 07902
908-522-7000

Trinitas Regional Medical Center
225 Williams St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
908-994-5000

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway

865 Stone Street
Rahway, NJ 07065
732-381-4200

C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS

In addition to the clinics listed above, a number of places in Union County offer care and support services specifically for people with HIV and AIDS.

Union County HIV & AIDS Services
10 Elizabethtown Plaza
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
908-558-2572

Proceed, Inc.
Administration-1126 Dickinson Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
Satellite Office-1122 East Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
(908) 351-7727
(908) 353-5185 (Fax)
Multi Service HIV/AIDS Service Agency

Catholic Charities
271 Smith Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
732-826-9160

Hyacinth Foundation
107 Park Ave., 3rd Floor
Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 755-0021
Hotline: 800-433-0254
info@hyacinth.org

Medical Diagnostic Associates
525 Central Ave., Suite C
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-233-0895

American Red Cross
321 Elm Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-232-4452

NJ AIDS/STD Hotline
1-800-624-2377 – 24 hours/day
The hotlines provide referrals, general information, counseling, testing locations and treatment information.

Rapid Testing Centers

Elizabeth
Lennard Clinic
850 Woodruff Lane, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

908-352-0850

Planned Parenthood –Elizabeth
1150 Dickenson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-351-5384

PROCEED, Inc.
1126 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-351-7727

Trinitas Hospital
654 East Jersey Street, Suite 161, Elizabeth, NJ 07026
908-994-7300

Trinitas Hospital-Emergency Department
25 Williamson Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07026
908-994-7300

Plainfield
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
25 Craig Place, Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-755-0021

Planned Parenthood of Plainfield
123 Park Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07063
908-756-3736

D. Services for People with Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C

In addition to the general medical care facilities listed above, there are a few services especially for people with tuberculosis and hepatitis C.

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM, UNION COUNTY

Rutgers Global TB Institute
NJ Medical School
Clinical Services
225 Warren St.
Newark, NJ 07103
973-672-6232

Tuberculosis Program
50 East Street, 3rd Floor
PO Box 363
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-826-4878



E. Dental Care

Most of the locations listed below don't provide free care, but do have a sliding scale for those with or without insurance.

Overlook Hospital Dental Care Center
99 Beauvoir Ave.
Summit, NJ 07902
908-522-2901

Neighborhood Health Services
1700-58 Myrtle Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07063
908-753-6401

184 First Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07206
908-355-4459

UMDNJ-School of Health Related Professions Scotch Plains
1776 Raritan Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-889-2410

Hackensack University Medical Center - Dental Clinic
St. John Building: 30 Prospect Avenue
Hackensack, NJ 07601
551-996-2111
Hillcrest Building: 60 Second St.
Hackensack, NJ 07601
551-996-3519
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm

Elizabeth Department of Health & Human Services
City Hall of Elizabeth G-12
50 Winfield Scott Plaza
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-820-4049

F. Mental Health/Substance Abuse Resources

FYI: Drug addiction can be fatal to your health, not to mention illegal and can result in jail time. In order to be successful in society seeking services for a drug or alcohol addiction will be necessary. Many of the health clinics, support centers and other resources listed in this guide can help refer you to treatment that most fit your needs. Listed below are some of Essex County's treatment resources and each of these will also help with referrals if they cannot help you. If you want

treatment, you should also ask your parole officer for help — beds in treatment facilities are hard to come by, and they can help get you in.

There are Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support group meetings all over Union County. To find a meeting near you, call 866-920-1212 (for AA) or 800-992-0401 (for NA). For other self-help group resources, call the New Jersey Self Help Clearinghouse at 800-367-6274. Also, you can call the Addictions Hotline of NJ at 800-238-2333.

Detoxification Centers in NJ

Aldie Counseling Center
2291 Cabot Boulevard West
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-642-3230

Behavioral Crossroads Recovery, LLC
509 South Blackhorse Pike (Rt 168)
Turnersville, NJ 08012
609-964-4061 ext. 2

Burlington Comp Counseling Inc.
75 Washington Street
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
609-267-3610

Carrier Clinic
252 County Route 601
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
908-281-1000

Hunterdon Med Center/Addictions Treatment Services
2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-6401

Jersey City Medical Center
355 Grand Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
201-915-2281

Kaleidoscope Health Care, INC
75 Harrison Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07304
201-451-5425

Livengrin Foundation Inc.
4833 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-638-5200

New Horizon Treatment Services Inc.
132 Perry Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-394-8988

New Pathway Counseling Services
995 Broadway
Bayonne, NJ 07002
201-436-1022

Princeton House Behavioral Health
905 Herrontown Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-497-3300

Somerset Treatment Services
118 West End Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-722-1232

Spectrum Health Care, INC
74-80 Pacific Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07304
201-860-6100

Summit Behavior Health
4065 Quakerbridge Road
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
609-651-4001

Today Inc.
1990 North Woodbourne Road
Newtown, PA 18940
215-968-4713

Turning Point, INC.
595 County Avenue
Secaucus, NJ 07096
973-239-9400

OUTPATIENT AND RESIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Addiction Services UCPC Behavioral Healthcare
117-119 Roosevelt Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 756-6870
Drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatments - outpatient drug rehab center and partial hospitalization/day treatment for persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, women and men

Intervention Specialist LLC
583 Cherry Street
Cranford, NJ 07208

(908) 289-0700
Drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatments - outpatient drug rehab centers for persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, persons with HIV/AIDS, Gay and lesbian, seniors/older adults, women and men including criminal justice.

Overlook Hospital Atlantic Health Systems
99 Beauvoir Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901
1-888-247-1400
Intensive outpatient and acute partial care behavioral health programs.

Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services
615 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, N.J. 07208
(908) 355-7200
Offers partial care mental health services.

Summit Hospital
19 Prospect St.
Summit, NJ 07902
800-753-5223
Services: intensive outpatient and/or residential psychiatric, co-occurring and/or drug & alcohol treatment programs

Counseling Care Associates
186 Paterson Avenue
East Rutherford, NJ 07073
(201) 896-4840
Limited drug and alcohol counseling for Union County residents.

Jewish Families Services of Central Jersey
655 Westfield Avenue
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
908-352-8375
Individual, family and group counseling services. Fees may be charged on a sliding scale.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark
Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Healthcare (2 locations):
108 Alden Street
Cranford, NJ 07016
908-497-3925

2201 Bergenline Ave.
Union City, NJ 07087
201-558-3700
Services: outpatient and partial care services for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness and substance abuse/dependence.

Carrier Clinic
252 Route 601

Belle Mead, NJ
24/7 Access Center: 1-800-933-3579
Offers inpatient, residential and outpatient psychiatric services. Also offers residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services.

Flynn House of NJ
1089-1091 East Jersey Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-351-2265
908-351-5042 (Fax)
Half-way house for alcohol & drug addicted. Provides behavior modification, stress management, individual counseling, outside A.A. & N.A. meetings.

Resolve Community Counseling Center
1830 Front Street
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-322-9180
Outpatient counseling services.

High Focus Centers
16 Commerce Drive
Cranford, NJ 07016
908-272-2474
908-272-8996 (Fax)
Outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment services offered to adults.

Trinitas Regional Medical Center
225 Williams Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
1-908-994-7250 (Inpatient)
1-908-994-7556 (Outpatient)
Offers adult psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services.

Proceed, Inc.
1126 Dickinson Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-351-7727 or 908-351-727 ext. 232
908-353-5185 (Fax)
Out-patient treatment for drug and alcohol abuse.

Pride Institute, Summit Hospital
19 Prospect Street
Summit, NJ 07901
908-277-9192
908-522-7098 (Fax)
Offers both inpatient and intensive outpatient treatment in psychiatry and substance abuse for LGBTQ population.

United Family and Children's Society
305 West 7th Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060
info@unitedfamily.org
908-755-4848

Individual, family, group and couples counseling; insurance, fee for service, slide

G. Emergency Mental Health Services

FYI: If at any time you may want to hurt yourself or someone else or you feel like you may be a danger to yourself or others, please call 911. It is very important that you call someone for help. Here are a few numbers of places that would be more than willing to come to your aid.

New Jersey Mental Health Cares Helpline
866-202-4357
TTY: 877-294-4356

Mobile Community Outreach (24 Hour Emergency Psychiatric Services)
908-994-7131

Union County Mental Health Services
908-527-4846
Sara Thode, Director of Behavioral Health/Mental Health Administrator

Primary Screening Centers for Union County

Trinitas Regional Medical Center
655 East Jersey Strett
Elizabeth, NJ 07206
Hotline: 908-994-7131

Overlook Hospital (CIP)
99 Beavior at Silvan Road
Summit, NJ 07901
Hotline: 908-522-2232

RWJ University Hospital Rahway
865 Stone Street
Rahway, NJ 07065
Hotline: 732-381-4949 or 732-499-616

H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses/Eye care

Union County Resident Eye Care Associates
201-797-2747

New Jersey Council of the Blind
153 Franklin Corner Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-882-2446

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

69 Prospect Place
Belleville, NJ 07107
973-450-3030

Finding a Job: Employment Assistance and Training Programs

Getting a job is usually one of the most important things people need to do when they are released from prison. Not everyone can obtain employment immediately, sometimes things like getting drug treatment, dealing with your housing, health or family situations come first. For most people though, finding working is the first step to getting back on your feet. It will be very challenging to get a job once you have been in prison, but it is not impossible, and you need to be persistent and patient. Below are some pointers on job searching, and information about resources that can help you find a job or get training for the job you want.

A. Things to Know Before You Start Your Job Search

Be Prepared: It is essential that you are organized, and have all records of previous employment available when beginning a job search. A resume is the smartest thing you can create. If you are unsure of how to do so, you may go to your local one-stop career center and seek assistance. Not only will employers want to know your work history, they will inquire of accurate dates that you were employed with the company. Knowing this information is vital to ensuring employment. Employers will not be interested in hearing that you do not remember dates or addresses for your work history. If an employer decides to hire you he will also need your identification so make sure that is readily available.

Presentation: Look as neat, clean and organized as possible, no matter what the job is. Be polite and respectful, even when people are not polite and respectful to you, and many won't be. Making the person you want to help you or hire you mad won't get you the job you want.

Talking About Your Criminal Record:
Never omit or falsify a document that asks you specifically if you have a criminal record. The application may ask you to give details to the nature of your crime and it may not. Chances are a criminal background check will be administered prior to employment and lying will cost you the job.

IT'S A JOB FOR RIGHT NOW,
IT'S NOT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
When you are first starting out, especially if you've been out of the job market for a while, or have never had a job, you need to build a work history, and, of course, you need to make some money. Take whatever job you can get for now — it doesn't have to be the exact job you want, or what you eventually want to be doing. Do this job well —even if it's not a great job — and it can help you get a better one in the future. One year of good job performance will make your criminal record matter less.

B. Help with Job Search and Job Training: Resources

The following are good places to start in looking for a job.

Union County One Stop Career Centers

Elizabeth Location:
921 Elizabeth Ave.
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-558-8000
908-558-8005 (fax)
Hours: 8:30-4:30pm

Plainfield Location
200 West 2nd Street
Plainfield, NJ 07063
(908) 757-9090
908-757-9094 (fax)
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Center for Educational Advancement
11 Minneakoning Road
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-782-1480
Computer Training, Job Placement, Job Training, Jobs, Vocational training

NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
438 Summit Avenue, Suite 604
Jersey City, NJ 07306
201-217-7180

Occupational Center of Union County, Inc.
301 Cox Street
Roselle, NJ 07203
908-241-7200
Email: ocuc@inroadsto.com
Vocational, rehabilitative, and mental health services to residents with a disability living in Union County community.

C. Legal Restrictions on Employment and Protections against Discrimination

If you are interested in getting a job and building a career in a particular area, you should make sure that it isn't one that is forbidden to someone with the kind of criminal conviction that you have on your record. There are about 22 categories of jobs in New Jersey that exclude people with convictions (which conviction it is varies by job). These include: aircraft/airport employees; paid public school employees; school bus drivers and school crossing guards; bank employees; bartenders and waiters in establishments where liquor is served; housing authority and municipal police and parking enforcement officers; New Jersey Turnpike Authority employees; liquor

retail, wholesale, manufacturing or distributing employees; paid firefighters; child care center employees; community residences for individuals with developmental disabilities. A much larger number of jobs require that you disclose your criminal record, and that employers perform background checks; some of these, however, also require that employers consider evidence of rehabilitation. These include most jobs in the health care and counseling fields (including drug and alcohol counseling) and social workers.

FYI: If you are going to begin training in a particular field, make sure you find out from the training course whether there are any restrictions that will keep you from getting a job.

PROTECTIONS FOR LICENSED OCCUPATIONS:
If you are not absolutely barred from a position because of your conviction, New Jersey law says that you cannot be denied a professional license simply because of your conviction unless the crime for which you were convicted relates to the occupation you want to enter. If the licensing board or agency wants to deny you a license because the crime is related to the occupation, they have to explain, in writing, that they have considered certain factors like the seriousness of the crime, the circumstances of the crime, the date and your age when convicted, whether the crime was an isolated or repeated event, social conditions, and evidence of rehabilitation. You can ask your parole officer about applying for "certificate of rehabilitation," which can be used in your license application.

D. Benefits for Employers Who Hire People with Criminal Records

As you look for a job you can tell employers that the federal government has programs to support employers who hire people coming out of prison.

WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT
An employer who hires people with criminal records may be able to save up to $4,800 the first year you are hired. May sure to inform your potential employer of this benefit. **For questions regarding WOTC, please call 609-292-5525 or 1-800-792-8881**

FEDERAL BONDING PROGRAM
The Federal Bonding program provides bonding or "insurance coverage" for employers who hire individuals with criminal histories who are otherwise qualified but cannot get jobs due to their backgrounds. You can get information about this program from the New Jersey Department of Labor, Workforce Division or the local One-stop Career Center (listed above).

E. Opening a Checking or Savings Account



After you've gotten a source of income, you may want to open a checking or savings account. A checking account is a great idea because many jobs provide direct deposit, and your check is automatically deposited into your account on payday. Using checks to pay for your bills is also cheaper than using money orders. To open a checking account you usually need a picture identification (driver's license or non-driver state identification), proof of address, birth certificate, and a social security card. You can also request a debit card with your account, which you can use just like a credit card (as long as you have the money in your account already). You can get a debit card for either a checking account, or a savings account, but with a savings account you can earn interest on the money you've saved. Fees for these accounts will vary depending on the type of account and bank. Many banks now offer free checking.

F. Public Libraries

Your local public library can be a good resource for your job search. Public computers provide Internet access (and help from a librarian in using the computer), job and course listings, and other local directories. In addition, libraries often carry the government forms mentioned in this guide, and librarians can help you find information beyond the scope of this book.

LIBRARIES

Berkley Heights Free Public Library
290 Plainfield Ave.
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
908-464-9333

Clark Public Library
303 Westfield Ave.
Clark, NJ 07066
732-388-5999

Friend of Library Service
27 Stemmer Drive
Clark, NJ 07066
908-709-7272

City of Elizabeth Library
102 3rd Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07206
908-289-9032

Free Public Library of Elizabeth
11 South Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Elmora Brand Library
740 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
908-353-4820

Garwood Free Public Library
223 Walnut Street
Garwood, NJ 07027
908-789-1670

K 6 Law Library
2000 Galloping Street
Kenilworth, NJ 07033
908-298-4858

Kenilworth Free Public Library
584 Boulevard
Kenilworth, NJ 07033
908-276-2451

Linden Free Public Library
31 East Henry Street
Linden, NJ 07036
908-298-3830

East Branch Library
1425 Dill Drive
Linden, NJ 07036
908-289-3829

New Providence Memorial Library
377 Elkwood Ave.
New Providence, NJ 07974
908-665-0311

Board of Trustees Free Library
850 Park Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-757-1111

North Plainfield Public Library
6 Rockview Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-755-7909

Rahway Library
75 East Cherry Street, Suite 9b
Rahway, NJ 07065
732-388-0761

Roselle Free Public Library
104 West 4th Ave.
Roselle, NJ 07203
908-245-5809

Roselle Park Veterans Memorial Library
404 Chestnut Street
Roselle Park, NJ 07204
908-245-7171

Scotch Plains Public Library
1927 Bartle Ave.
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-322-5007

Springfield Free Public Library
65 Mountain Ave.
Springfield, NJ 07081
973-376-4930

Summit Free Public Library
75 Maple Street
Summit, NJ 07901
908-273-0350

Nancy Thompson Library
PO Box 411
Union, NJ 07083
908-527-2017

Union Twp. Free Public Library
Friberger Park
Union, NJ
908-851-5450

Westfield Memorial Library
550 East Broad Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-789-4090



RECONNECTING WITH FAMILY

As you prepare to come home, you may be thinking about reuniting with family members, including those you may not have seen for a long time. You may be excited to see your kids, your spouse, your parents, and others who are part of your family, and they may be glad to see you home, but your return can be stressful for you and for them. All kinds of issues can come up, and you may need some help

solving some of the problems that arise. This section provides some information and resources to help solve these issues.

Hotlines For Family Services Resources

NJ Child Abuse/ Neglect Hotline:
1(877)NJABUSE (652-2873)

Child Care Hotline:
1(800) 332-9227

NJ Child Support Hotline:
1 (877) NJKIDS- 1 (655-4371)

Division of Family Development:
1(800) 792-9773

NJ Department of Children and Families:
1 (800) INFO-DCF 1-855-463-6323

Family Health Line:
1 (800) 328-3838

Family Help Line (for stressed parents):
1 (800) THE KIDS (843-2537)

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1(800) 799-7233

NJ Domestic Violence Hotline:
1(800) 572-7223

Parents Anonymous:
1(800) 843-5437

A. Family Counseling Resources

The following places can provide support, marital and family counseling and parenting classes to help you reunite with your family.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark
505 South Avenue East
Cranford, NJ 07016
(908) 497-3902
Adult Services, children & family services, child protective services in-Home Hispanic Family Services, family and adoption services, emergency food and nutrition network, immigration assistance. Fee for service, some insurance accepted, slide scale available.

Family and Children's Services
Main Office: 40 North Avenue
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
(908) 352-7474

Midtown Office: 16 Jefferson Avenue
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-372-1007
Individual, family and group counseling services Fees may be charged on a sliding scale.

Jewish Families Services of Central Jersey
655 Westfield Avenue,
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
908-352-8375
Individual, family and group counseling services Fees may be charged on a sliding scale.

Proceed, Inc.
1126 Dickinson Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-351-7727
908-353-5185 (Fax)
Individual, family, group and couples counseling; insurance, fee for service, Slide, Bi-Lingual Servicies

United Family and Children's Society
305 West 7th Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060
info@unitedfamily.org
908-755-4848
Individual, family, group and couples counseling; insurance, fee for service, sliding scale

Resolve Community Counseling Center
1830 Front Street
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-322-9180
Individual, couples and family counseling services and parent education programs.



B. Child Custody and Visitation

Establishing visitation and gaining custody of your children once you are released is not an overnight procedure. If you had custody of your kids at the time you were incarcerated, and no family was able to take care of them, they may have been placed in foster care. If this is the case, and you do not know your child's case manager's name or number, contact the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS), at 800-531-1091. You will have to make an appointment with the case manager for an interview. They may not be willing to give you information over the phone. You'll be asked a series of questions in order to assess when and if you will be given visitation rights, so that you may reestablish your relationship with the child and hopefully gain custody again. This is just a quick overview of what to do and what you can expect.

FYI: *If you were convicted of any violent or sexual offenses against children, you may be unable to live with or regain custody of your children.*

Listed below are the different offices for DCPP in your area. Please contact the office that applies to your location.

Union Central #571
570 South Avenue East
Cranford, NJ 07016
908-497-1488 or 866-224-1914

Union East #566
80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
908-820-3000 or 800-847-1738

Union West #568
Park Madison Building
200 West 2nd Street, 4th Floor
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-754-0952 or 800-847-1750

C. Getting and Paying Child Support

Whether you have custody of your children on your own when you get out, and need help from an absent ("non-custodial") parent, or you do not have custody of kids who need your support, child support payments will be an important part of your life after you are released. Some basic information is included below, as far as enforcing a child support order

Child support, custody and visitation issues are very complicated, and if you can get **a lawyer, you should.** Contact the Legal Services of New Jersey hotline, from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, at 888-576-5529, or the Union County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at 908-353-4715. You can also contact Central Jersey Legal Services at 60 Prince Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208 at 908-354-4340. From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner's Self-Help Legal Clinic, PO Box 768, Newark, NJ 07101.

GETTING AND ENFORCING A CHILD SUPPORT ORDER
If you have custody of your children, and want financial support from the non-custodial parent, you can apply for child support at the Union County Family Court Building, 2 Broad Street, 2nd Floor Annex, Elizabeth, NJ 07207, 908-659-4600. There is a possible fee. You can also call 1-877-NJKIDS1 for more information about this.

PAYING CHILD SUPPORT
If you have kids that you did not have custody of before you went to prison, there may be a child support order requiring you to pay a certain amount every month for their support. Even if you did not go to court — if, for example, the parent

with custody filed for the order while you were incarcerated — the court can still order you to pay child support. The amount you pay in child support is tied to your income, and if the court does not know your income, they will assume you are working 40 hours a week at minimum wage. Child support payments are usually taken out of your paycheck. If you have not paid at all or missed payments, you will owe "arrears." Unless you got a modification of your child support order when you went into prison (see below), the amount of arrears that you owe will have continued to grow while you were inside. When you come out, and get a job, they can begin to take out not just the monthly amount you owe for child support, but more money to pay back the arrears (up to 65% of your pay in total). They may also suspend your driver's license only if there is a warrant. If the warrant is cleared the client must pay $100 restoration fee to DMV unless waived by court order. Here are some things you can do:

Union County Child Support
1143-1145 E. Jersey Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
1-877-655-4371
To enforce an existing order

Union County Courthouse Annex
New Annex Building, 2 Elizabeth Plaza, 2nd Floor
Elizabeth, NJ 07205
1-877-655-4371
To establish or change an order

Union County Division of Social Services
342 Westminster Ave.
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
1-877-655-4371
To locate a parent prior to an order

D. Domestic Violence Resources

The following places provide counseling, support and shelter or referrals to shelter in domestic violence situations. You can also call these 24 hour hotlines:

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women:
(800)-572-SAFE.

Domestic Abuse Hotline for Men and Women:
(888) 7HELPLINE (1-888-743-5754)

Center for Family Services-Services Empowering the Rights of Victims (SERV)
24 Hr. Hotline: 856-881-3335

NJ Coalition for Battered Women
800-572-7233

Project Protect
Hotline: 908-355-4357

YWCA Union County
Hotline: 908-355-4357 (24/7)

GETTING MORE EDUCATION 

Although getting more education may not be part of your short term plans, it certainly should be something to think about for the future, especially if you do not have a high school diploma or a GED.

A. High School Diploma/GED Certificate/High School Equivalency Degree (HSED)/Vocational School Certificates

It is very important to keep records of any degrees and certificates of completion and work-related licenses that you have earned. Before you are released, you can write to the school or agency where you earned your degree or certificate to obtain a copy. Once you have a copy in your possession, this should be kept in your strong box.

FYI: If you earned your GED while incarcerated please call the Education department of the institution you were in to obtain a copy.

You can also request your GED transcript or diploma verification from the New Jersey Department of Education providing you completed your diploma in a traditional setting. You will have to fill out a GED Information Request Form.

Please call 609-777-1050 for further assistance.
You may ask that it be sent to you; or you may pick up the form at a local testing center (which you can do after you are released); by downloading the form from the website http://www.state.nj.us/njded/students/ged/ged7.htm; or by writing to: GED Testing Program, Bureau of Adult Education and Family Literacy, New Jersey Department of Education, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Your chances of getting a job that pays a living wage, and of moving forward in a career will improve with more education, and not having the high school diploma or GED will simply lock you out from a lot of opportunities.

B. GED Classes

The places in Union County below offer classes to help you prepare for the GED exam. Call for exact times and procedures. Many locations offer classes at low cost or no cost. For more information, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Workforce Readiness & Literacy at 609-943-5921. Call individual programs for information on classes offered, fees and/or time schedules.

GED Testing Centers

Plainfield Public Library
800 Park Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-757-1111 ext. 122
literacy@plfdpl.info
www.plainfieldlibrary.info/
Test offered in English and Spanish

Union County College
40 West Jersey St.
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
908-659-5154
Test offered in English and Spanish

GED Classes

Urban Workforce Advantage
Elizabeth Center
49 Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
908-355-2288

Union City Center
3608 Bergenline Ave., 2nd Floor
Union City, NJ 07087
201-865-1199

Linden Adult Education School
Linden High School
121 W. St. Georges Avenue
Linden, NJ 07036
908-486-5432 ext. 8348

C. Higher Education

If you already have a high school diploma or a GED certificate, you may want to move forward and get your associate's degree, bachelor's degree or graduate degree. Below are resources for Union County area.

Local Area Colleges

New Jersey Institute of Technology
150 Bleeker St.
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(973) 596-3000

Montclair State University
1 Normal Ave.
Montclair, NJ 07043
973-655-4000

Seton Hall University.
400 South Orange Avenue
South Orange, NJ 07079
973-761-9000

Union County College
Cranford Campus**:** 908-709-7000
1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016
Elizabeth Campus**:** 908-965-6000
40West Jersey Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Plainfield Campus**:** 908-412-3599
232 East Second Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060
Scotch Plains Campus: 908-412-3599
1700 Raritan Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

University of Northern New Jersey
25 Commerce Drive
Cranford, NJ 07016
908-300-5600

Kean University
1000 Morris Ave.
Union, NJ 07083
(908) 737-5326
www.kean.edu

Rutgers University -- Newark
190 University Ave.
Newark, NJ 07102
973-353-1766

DeVry University
630 US Highway 1
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
(732) 729-3960

Lincoln Technical School
2299 Vauxhall Road
Union, NJ 07083

908-964-7800

CAN I GET FINANCIAL AID?
To pay for school, you will probably try to get some financial aid. If you are applying for any federal financial aid programs after release (such as Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Federal Family Education Loans, etc.), you are not restricted unless you have a drug-related offense. For possession offenses, a first offense means one year of ineligibility (after your conviction), a second offense, two years and third offense means you are "indefinitely" ineligible, which to the government means permanently ineligible. For a sales or distribution crime, a first offense has two years of ineligibility, a second offense makes it permanent. Private financial aid or loan programs may not have any restrictions.

Other Things You Need to Know



A. Getting Legal Assistance

To get assistance with civil (not criminal) cases, you can contact the toll-free hotline at **888-576-5529** for **Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ)**, which provides both information and referrals. The Central Jersey Legal Services, 198 W State Street, Trenton, at 609-695-6249 also serves Union County.

Central Jersey Legal Services
Union County Office
60 Prince Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
(908) 354-4340

From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner's Self-Help Legal Clinic, PO Box 768, Newark, NJ 07101.

B. Checking and Correcting Your Criminal Record ("rap sheet")

Since employers, landlords and others will be performing criminal background checks and getting copies of your criminal record, it is important that you know what is on it, and that it is accurate. You should also be prepared to answer any questions about your background.

FYI: Background checks are now only done electronically. You may contact State Police Headquarters to inquire how to correct your criminal record. The address is listed below.

State Section of Identification
Records and Identification Bureau
New Jersey State Police
PO Box 7068
West Trenton, NJ 08628
1-609-882-2000 ext 6425

1-609-530-4856 (fax)

C. Expungement: Cleaning Up Your Criminal Record

You may have heard about expungement as one way to clean up your criminal record as you get some distance from your old arrests and convictions. Unfortunately, expungement is fairly limited in New Jersey. You can expunge any arrest that did not lead to a conviction at any point. You can expunge "disorderly persons offenses," which are low-level offenses in New Jersey, after 5 years, and most municipal ordinance offenses after 2 years. Convictions for "indictable offenses" (felonies), can be expunged 10 years from the date of conviction, payment of any fine, satisfactory completion of probation or parole or release from incarceration, but whichever is latest. The most serious of these offenses, such as murder, kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, robbery, arson, perjury and distribution, sale or possession with intent to distribute of controlled dangerous substances (drugs), **can never be expunged**. Expungement is a broader remedy for offenses committed as a juvenile. Legal Services of New Jersey has published a guide to cleaning up your record through expungement. To obtain a copy of the book, call 1-888-576-5529, or go to the LSNJ website, where you can download it for free at: http://www.lsnj.org/english/crime/municipalcourt/clearingyourrecord.cfm.

Central Jersey Legal Services
Union County Office
60 Prince Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
(908) 354-4340

D. Checking and Correcting Your Credit Record

While New Jersey allows employers to look at your criminal record, many employers — and others like landlords and mortgage companies — will use a credit report instead of or in addition to the state's records. Credit records are maintained by private companies and generally have information about your debts, your history of paying bills and other financial matters, but may also have information about your criminal record. The information may not be correct, and the law does offer you some protections. For example, if an employer uses a credit record to deny you a job, they have to tell you this, and give you the name, address and phone number of the agency that provided the report, and the agency must give you a copy of that information on your request. They cannot charge you money for that request if the employer used the report to deny you a job. If the records of the credit agency contain incorrect information, they must investigate and correct inaccurate information.

You can get ahead of the curve by getting a copy of your credit record and making sure there isn't any incorrect information on

it. New Jersey residents are allowed one free credit report each year. Three companies that provide this service are:

Equifax Information Systems, LLC:
P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA,
30374, or call 800-685-1111.

Transunion Personal Credit Report:
PO Box 1000, Chester PA 19022
Call 800-888-4213.

Experian:
PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013
Call 800-397-3742.

FYI: By mail, be sure to include your full name, current address, Social Security number, and most recent former address for file-matching purposes.

E. Voting Rights

New Jersey law does not allow you to vote while you are in prison, or while you are on probation or parole for an indictable offense (disorderly persons offenses don't disqualify you). **Once you have completed your parole or probation term, you may register to vote**. Make sure that you are registered in the county in which you reside. **Applications for registration can be obtained from Social Services prior to release**. Also you may apply with the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live or from your Municipal Clerk once you are released. Registration forms are also available in various State agencies and at Division of Motor Vehicle offices and can be obtained while transacting agency business. If you are not sure, you can visit http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/vote_doe.html. You will be able to download a voter's registration form and mail it in. This site also explains who can register to vote and where you can register.

F. Registration of Sexual Offenders (Megan's Law)

Sex offenders are required to register with the police under Megan's Law. Offenses include: aggravated sexual assault; sexual assault; aggravated criminal sexual contact; endangering the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of the child; luring or enticing and, if the victim were a minor and the offender not a parent, kidnapping; criminal restraint and false imprisonment and promoting prostitution of a child under 18. **You will be registered prior to release, but must re-register your home address at least 10 days prior to any move with the law enforcement agency with which you were registered when released**. You will also need to verify your address annually or every 90 days if you are a repetitive and compulsive offender.

The Game Plan

Your first weeks out after leaving prison can be overwhelming. This section is set up to help you get organized and keep yourself on track toward your goals. First, think about what those goals are. What do you want or need to get done in your first week out? In your first month out? Where do you want to be in six months? There are lots of things that other people need you to do – your parole officer, for example, and your family – but you also need to think about what you expect from yourself.

Here are pages to use to plan your first days out of prison. There are some questions to ask yourself about what you plan to do. It's best to write things down and plan ahead. *****You should also refer to your discharge plan created by your social worker that outlines your needs.** Have a wonderful and successful reentry!

DO I have my Basic Needs?

Shelter: _____

Food: _____

Health Care: _____

Clothing: _____

Transportation: _____

DO I have support?

Family: _____

Friends: _____

IDENTIFICATION Checklist

Documents	**Have**	**Need**
Social Security Card	_____	_____
Birth Certificate	_____	_____
County Identification	_____	_____
Driver's License	_____	_____
Non-driver's Identification	_____	_____
Certificate of Naturalization	_____	_____
Green Card	_____	_____
Military Discharge Papers	_____	_____
Passport	_____	_____
High School or General Education Diploma	_____	_____
Prison Release Papers	_____	_____

Other things I need to do
(job leads, appointments, prescriptions, etc.):

Notes: _____

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Important Names and Phones Numbers
(Parole, Mentor, Emergency Contact)

Name:_____
Phone Number:_____

Name:_____
Phone Number:_____

Name:_____
Phone Number:_____

Name:_____
Phone Number:_____

Name:_____
Phone Number:_____

Name:_____
Phone Number:_____

Name:_____
Phone Number:_____

Smart Book Topics

- **Getting Started: Identification & Other Documents**
- **First Steps after Release: Where Do I Go to Find …?**
- **Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support**
- **Taking Care of Yourself: Health Care Resources**
- **Finding a Job: Employment Assistance and Training Programs**
- **Reconnecting With Family**
- **Getting More Education**
- **Other Things You Need to Know**
- **The Game Plan**