

The Somerset-Hunterdon County Smart Book



A Resource Guide for Returning Home

2020 Edition
by
The New Jersey Department of Corrections
Office of Transitional Services

Quick Reference: Useful Numbers and Hotlines

Positive Transitioning Hotline	1-844-355-1321
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	1-800-245-1377
Division of Disability Services (DDS)	1-888-285-3036
Division of Youth & Family Services	1-800-792-8610
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation	1-800-433-0254
Legal Services of New Jersey Toll-free Hotline, Mon.– Fri.	1-888-576-5529
NJ Motor Vehicle Commission Driver's License Suspension Hotline Main Information	1-609-292-7500 1-888-486-3339
Narcotics Anonymous of NJ	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 Se habla español or toll free	2-1-1 1-800-331-7272
Hunterdon County One Stop	908-782-2371
Somerset County One Stop	908-704-3000
Social Security Office	1-800-772-1213
Service Empowering Rape Victims (SERV)	1-856-964-SERV
Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (Womanspace, Inc.) Bilingual and TTY accessible	1-800-572-7233

The Hunterdon & Somerset County Smart Book

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The Start of a New Beginning: How to Use this Book

The purpose of this book is to help you get ready to leave prison and return home, and to help you find the things you need to get back on your feet once you're there. It is specifically focuses on what you'll need to know during the first weeks and months that you're back, which can be a hard time of adjustment. This book will not answer all of the questions you will face in preparing for and adjusting to being back in the community, but it can help you get started. It will also tell you where to go to get more information.

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 that particular service. 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 an 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 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 will not find every service or organization in **Hunterdon and/or Somerset County** in this book but, 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. **The local libraries located on pages 37-39 can assist you with obtaining internet access.**

Getting Started: 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. While many people lose these documents when they are incarcerated, the good news is that you can begin to collect them again before you are released, by mail or with the help of your social worker. Below is a list of different documents and how to get them.

Helpful tip: 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 or address for further verification of your address.



A. Social Security Card

You can obtain a replacement card if you have a Social Security number (even if you don't remember what it is.) You can get a new card by mail from prison, or can get it after you are released by going to the social security office.

PRE-RELEASE: The New Jersey Department of Corrections has an agreement in place with the Social Security Administration that allows inmates in the release process to apply for a replacement Social Security Card. This service is offered through the Social Services Department of the correctional facility. The application and card are free. Once approved the card is sent to your correctional facility and will be issued to you upon your release from custody. For more information contact the Social Services Department at your correctional facility.

POST-RELEASE: You can also get the application by phone or by mail. The following offices are the local branches in Hunterdon and Somerset County. Please find which office is closest to your residence.

U.S. Social Security Administration

Hunterdon and Somerset County

29 Davenport St.
Somerville, NJ 08876
Toll Free 1-800-772-1213

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 at www.ssa.gov/replace_sscard.html. You will need to show proof of identification.

Prison release papers count as proof of identification.



B. Birth certificate

The office of Vital Statistics in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has all the New Jersey birth, marriage, and death records. The fee is **\$25.00**. However, depending upon where you were born in Hunterdon or Somerset 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

You can go directly to the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry at **140 East Front Street, Trenton, NJ**. In-person counter service is available from 8:30 to 4:00 pm and you can usually get the certificate on the same day.

Contact information for the NJ Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration:

1-609-292-4087 x582
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 release. Please see your social worker to do so.

You can also obtain a birth certificate from Vital Statistics, City Hall, 155 Market Street, Paterson 973-321-1277 or the office of Vital Statistics in the town/ city of your birth. The following are a list of Vital Statistics Registrars in Hunterdon and Somerset County. If you were born in one of the towns listed, you can apply for your birth certificate using the information listed below.

Hunterdon County

Alexandria Township

Michele Bobrowski
242 Little York-Mt. Pleasant
Milford, NJ 08848
Phone: (908) 996-7071 x210
Fax: (908) 996-4196

Bloomsbury Borough

Lisa A. Burd Reindel
91 Brunswick Avenue
Bloomsbury, NJ 08804
Phone: (908) 479-4200
Fax: (908) 479-1418

Bethlehem Township

Christine Dispenza
Municipal Building
405 Mine Road
Asbury, NJ 08802-1107
Phone: 908-735-4107 x101
Fax: 908-735-0485

Califon Borough

Laura Eidsvaag
Borough Hall
P.O. Box 368
39 Academy Street
Califon, NJ 07830
Phone: (908) 832-7850 x201

Clinton Town

Cecilia Covino
P.O. Box 5194
43 Leigh Street
Clinton, NJ 08809-0194
Phone: (908) 735-8616
Fax: (908) 735-8082

Clinton Township
Carla Conner
1225 Rte 31 South, Bldg D
Lebanon, NJ 08833
Phone: (908) 735-8800 x200
Fax: (908) 735-8156

Delaware Township
Judith Allen
Township Hall
P.O. Box 500
570 Rosemont Ringoes Road
Sergeantsville, NJ 08557
Phone: (609) 397-3240 x205
Fax: (609) 397-4893

East Amwell Township
Teresa Stahl
1070 US Route 202/31
Ringoes, NJ 08551
Phone: 908-782-8536 X19

Flemington Borough
Rebecca Newman
Borough Hall
38 Park Avenue
Flemington, NJ 08822
Phone: 908-782-8840
Fax: 908-782-0142

Franklin Township
Ursula Stryker
202 Sidney Road
Pittstown, NJ 08867
Phone: 908-735-5215

Frenchtown Borough
Brenda Shepherd
Borough Hall
29 Second Street
Frenchtown, NJ 08825
Phone: (908) 996-4524
Fax: (908) 996-3408

Glen Gardner Borough
Judy Bass
P.O. Box 307
83 Main Street
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
Phone: 908-5374748

Hampton Borough
Cathy L. Drummond
Box 418
1 Wells Avenue
Hampton, NJ 08827
Phone: (908) 537-2329
Fax: (908) 537-7097

High Bridge Borough
John Gregory
Borough Hall
71 Main Street
High Bridge, NJ 08829
Phone: 908-638-6455

Holland Township
Catherine Miller
61 Church Road
Milford, NJ 08848
Phone: (908) 995-4847
Fax: (908) 995-7112

Kingwood Township
Mary MacConnell
P.O. Box 199
County Route 519/Oak Grove Rd
Bldg. 599
Baptistown, NJ 08803-0199
Phone: (908) 996-4276
Fax: (908) 996-7753

Lambertville City
Cynthia Ege
18 York Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530
Phone: (609) 397-0110
Fax: (609) 397-2203

Lebanon Borough
Karen M. Romano
6 High Street
Lebanon, NJ 08833
Phone: (908) 236-2425
Fax: (908) 236-2939

Lebanon Township

Karen J. Sandorse
530 West Hill Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
Phone: (908) 638-8523 x11
Fax: (908) 638-5957

Milford Borough

Karen Dysart
P.O. Box 507
30 Water Street 2nd Floor
Milford, NJ 08848-0507
Phone: (908) 995-4523
Fax: (908) 955-2343

Raritan Township

Lisa Krieger
1 Municipal Drive
Room 130
Flemington, NJ 08822-3446
Phone: 908-806-6083
Fax: 908-806-7061

Readington Township

Darlene Mitchell
Municipal Office
509 Route 523
Whitehouse Station, NJ
08889
Phone: (908) 534-4051
Fax: (908) 534-5909

Somerset County

Bedminster Township

Judith A. Sullivan
Municipal Building
1 Miller Lane
Bedminster, NJ 07921-1003
Phone: (908) 212-7000
Fax: (908) 212-7001

Bernards Township

Lucy A. Forgione
262 S. Finley Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone: 908-204-3067
Fax: 908-204-3075

Stockton Borough

Michele Hovan
2 South Main Street
PO Box M
Stockton, NJ 08559
Phone: (609) 397-0070
Fax: (609) 397-4067

Tewksbury Township

Roberta Brassard
169 Old Turnpike Road
Califon, NJ 07830
Phone: (908) 439-0022 X727

Union Township

Ella Malecki-Ruta
Municipal Building
140 Perryville Road
Hampton, NJ 08827
Phone: (908) 735-8027
Fax: (908) 735-0591

West Amwell Township

Lora L. Olsen
Township Hall
150 Rocktown-Lambertville
Road
Lambertville, NJ 08530-3203
Phone: 609-397-2054

Bernardsville Borough

Anthony Suriano
Borough Hall
166 Minebrook Road
Bernardsville, NJ 07924
Phone: 908 766 3000
Fax: 908 766 2401

Bound Brook Borough

Cira Maritza Arias
230 Hamilton Street
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
Phone: (732) 356-0833
Fax: (732) 356-8990

Branchburg Township

Sharon L. Brienza
1077 Highway 202 North
Branchburg, NJ 08876-
Phone: (908) 526-1300
Fax: (908) 526-2452

Bridgewater Township

Nadine Carr
100 Commons Way
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Phone: 908-725-6300 Ext.
5203
Fax: 908-595-0825

Far Hills Borough

Dorothy Hicks
P.O. Box 249
6 Prospect St.
Far Hills, NJ 07931
Phone: 908-234-0611 X19
Fax: 908-234-0918

Franklin Township

Msiba Holliman
475 DeMott Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873
Phone: (732) 873-2500 x
6375
Fax: (732) 873-0312

Green Brook Township

Raymond Murray
111 Greenbrook Road
Green Brook, NJ 08812
Phone: (732) 968-1023 x
6604
Fax: (732) 968-4088

Hillsborough Township

Karen Sowden
Municipal Building
379 S. Branch Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
Phone: (908) 369-5652
Fax: (908) 369-8565

Manville Borough

Kathleen Suydam
325 North Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835
Phone: (908) 725-9478 x114

Fax: (908) 231-8620

Millstone Borough

Rebecca Newman
1353 Main Street
Millstone Borough, NJ 08844
Phone: 908-281-6893

Montgomery Township

Jennifer Foster
Municipal Building
2261 Route 206
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
Phone: (908) 359-8211
Fax: (908) 359-4308

North Plainfield Borough

Cynthia A. Danois
Borough Hall
263 Somerset Street
North Plainfield, NJ 07060
Phone: (908) 769-2907
Fax: (908) 769-6499

Peapack and Gladstone Boro

Hector A. Herrera
Municipal Complex
1 School Street
Peapack, NJ 07977
Phone: 908-234-2250

Raritan Borough

Constance M. Del Rocco
22 1st Street
Raritan, NJ 08869
Phone: (908) 231-1300 Ext
20
Fax: (908) 231-0810

Rocky Hill Borough

Rebecca Newman
PO Box 188
15 Montgomery Avenue
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553
Phone: (609) 924-7445
Fax: (609) 924-2274

Somerville Borough

Marcie Tyson
25 West End Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876
Phone: (908) 725-2300 x1980
Fax: (908) 725-2859

South Bound Brook Borough

Donald E. Kazar
12 Main Street
South Bound Brook, NJ
08880
Phone: (732) 356-0258 Ext.
13
Fax: (732) 560-1524

Warren Township

Barbara Streker
Municipal Building
46 Mountain Boulevard
Warren, NJ 07059
Phone: (908) 753-8000 x239
Fax: (908) 757-9173

Watchung Borough

Mary Ann Hance
15 Mountain Boulevard
Borough Hall
Watchung, NJ 07069-
Phone: 908-756-0080
Fax: (908) 757-7027

The Office of Vital Statistics in the New Jersey Dept. of Health and Senior Services has all New Jersey birth, marriage, and death records. The fee is **\$25**. For more information, there is also a website: www.state.nj.us/health/vital/

C. County I.D.

You can obtain a county identification card for Hunterdon County by going to the **County Clerk's located at 71 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. They may be contacted by phone at 908-788-1221.** You will need to supply two of the following documents as evidence of identity and citizenship: a U.S. certified birth certificate with raised seal, social security card, Hunterdon County voter registration card, state of New Jersey driver license displaying Hunterdon County address, U.S. Passport, current or expired less than three years and/or DD-214 Military Discharge Record. Applicants must also supply evidence of Hunterdon County residency** (**not necessary if your driver's license or voter registration card displays Hunterdon County Residency). Accepted documentation includes: Utility bill (telephone, electric, gas) from the last 90 days, W-2 form or correspondence from the IRS/State Tax Office in the last year, recent pay stub showing name & address, property tax bill/statement from the past year, checking or saving account statement from the past 60 days, school iD card, and/or current school report card. **The fee to obtain a County ID is \$10.00 for applicants up to the age of 17; applicants 18 years of age to 59 years of age is \$20.00 and \$5.00 for applicants age 60 and older.**

****As of January 2010, Somerset County Clerk's Office no longer issues official identification cards.**



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 kind of drug offense, your license has been suspended.

Prior to your release, you can get a copy of your driver's license record, which is called an "abstract." Please contact your social worker if you are interested in obtaining an abstract. **The fee for an abstract is \$15.00**

Upon your release, you can go to the MVC offices in Hunterdon/Somerset County (listed below) or a Regional Service Center to request a driver's 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 six 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 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: **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 Hunterdon/Somerset 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 HUNTERDON & SOMERSET COUNTY

To reach MVC by phone call **609-292-6500**

Hunterdon County

181 B Routes 31 & 202

Ringoes, NJ 08551

Agency: M, W, Th, F 8:00am-5:30pm; Tue 8:00am-7:30pm and

Sat 8:00am-1:00pm

Inspection: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm; Sat 7:00am-12:00pm

Somerset County

10 Roosevelt Place

Somerville, NJ 08876

Agency: M, W, Th, F 8:00am-5:30pm; Tue 8:00am-7:30pm and

Sat 8:00am-1:00pm

To replace a lost or stolen license, you will have to bring identification to the MVC and pay an **\$11.00 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 drivers 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**.

E. Non-driver's State I.D.

New Jersey provides state photo identification card for non-drivers. **You can get this kind of official state I.D. 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.

F. Certificates of Naturalization or Citizenship

You will need this for employment if you are not a citizen. 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 800-375-5283.**

CITIZENSHIP LOCATIONS

US Citizenship & Immigration Service

Closest field office to Hunterdon and Somerset County

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

Application Support Center

24 Commerce Ave.
Newark, NJ 07102

G. Alien Registration Card ("Green Card")

To replace a missing Green Card, you must go to the US Citizenship & Immigration Service Office (see above), bring identification, and fill out a I-90 form or you can go to the website and download the forms at www.uscis.gov. It costs **\$290.00** for processing. **If you have any questions or concerns about your status as a result of your criminal conviction, call Legal Services of New Jersey at 1-888-576-5529 before going to immigration.**

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
1-800-827-1000

Main records depository

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

Hunterdon County Office on Veteran Services

4 Gauntt Place
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-1361
Contact: Sabrina Baarda, Veteran Services Coordinator

Somerset County Dept. of Veterans Services

92 East Main Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-704-6329

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 like an important thing to have at this point, it can serve as an easier form of widely accepted identification. The passport has a fee. If you're interested in obtaining one after your release, please go to the following places:

Hunterdon County Clerk

71 Main Street, Hall of Records
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822
Phone: 908-788-1221
Fax: 908-782-4068
Email: countyclerk@co.hunterdon.nj.us
Passport & Recordings Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

\$135.00 (total) Regular Passport

- \$110.00 U.S. Dept. of State
- \$25.00 Hunterdon County Clerk

\$55.00 (total) Regular Passport Cards

- \$30.00 U.S. Dept. of State
- \$25.00 Hunterdon County Clerk

\$10.00 for passport photos (if needed)

****Passport fees: Cash, check or money order payable to 'Hunterdon County Clerk'**

Visa/Master/Discover card only accepted for fees payable to Hunterdon County Clerk

****Payment to the U.S. Department of State is REQUIRED to be made by check or money order**

Somerset County Clerk

20 Grove Street
PO Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-231-7008

\$135.00 (total) Regular Passport

- \$110.00 U.S. Dept. of State
- \$25.00 Somerset County Clerk

\$55.00 (total) Regular Passport Cards

- \$30.00 U.S. Dept. of State
- \$25.00 Somerset County Clerk

\$10.00 for passport photos (if needed)

****Passport fee: Check/Money Order/Cash 'Somerset County Clerk'**

No credit cards are accepted at this facility

****Payment to the U.S. Department of State is REQUIRED to be made by check or money order**

You will need to bring (both locations):

- An original or certified with a raised seal and file date issued by Vital Statistics
- A naturalization certificate
- Official military I.D.
- A previous U.S. passport; photocopies aren't accepted.
- Your social security card
- Primary ID., such as a valid driver's license, government identification, previous US passport or military ID
- Secondary ID (please bring 3 of the following if you do not have a Primary ID): work ID (with photo & signature), government issued ID (i.e. state issued non-driver's ID), expired driver's license, student ID. ****If you do not have either a Primary or 3 forms of Secondary ID, a witness who has known you for two years or more must be present, (make sure your witness has Primary ID, Somerset County)****
- 2 identical copies of a 2x2 face front regulation passport photo (****photos can be taken at both facilities for a fee of \$10****)

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 Hunterdon and Somerset County that you can utilize upon release.

BE PREPARED: Put all your paperwork and identification in one place, a folder or an envelope, and have it with you, so you can answer questions that people ask. Never carry your birth certificate or social security card with you. You will only need to produce these items upon request.

KEEP RECORDS: Write down the full names and phone numbers of people that you've talked to, and when you spoke to them. Keep copies of any money orders or receipts for things you've paid for and any letters you've gotten from government agencies, the courts, or organizations that are helping you.

BE PATIENT: You are probably going to have to wait in a lot of lines for things, and be put on hold by telephone operators. You will meet a lot of workers who are trying to help a lot of people, not just you. Expect to wait. Expect that you may be sent to different offices and workers to get something taken care of. Try to be patient and be polite — it will help.

Below you'll find the names, addresses, phone numbers and descriptions of agencies and services that can help you. It is a good idea to call first to check that their hours of operation haven't changed:

See following pages for list of resources for after your release.

A. First Stops

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

FIRST-STOP AGENCIES

2-1-1/First Call for Help- is a resource for Hunterdon and Somerset County residents, which offers comprehensive information and referrals for human services, health care, government and community resource assistance. Dial 211, which can be accessed from the internet, cell phone or landline, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

Dial 800-331-7272 for the Homeless Hotline, which addresses emergencies and homeless calls.

211 is multi-lingual and accepts TTY callers.



B. Shelter

Here are some shelters, food pantries, and soup kitchens in Hunterdon and Somerset County. Access to most of these shelters can be obtained through the Hudson County Board of Social Services or through a general walk in. Although each agency has been verified, please call to check for most current hours of operation. Please call the agency listed below for further information.

Hunterdon Helpline

1-800-272-4630

-If you are experience a housing emergency, call for a referral and/or information regarding emergency shelter placement or financial assistance. This is a 24 hour, 7 days referral service.

Easter Seals

Options/Homeless Program
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-7580

-This program serves adult clients with mental illness, to assist them with looking for housing in Hunterdon County.

Family Promise of Hunterdon County, Inc.

10 East Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-782-2490

-Family shelter

SAFE in Hunterdon

47 East Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-7666

Toll Free Hotline: 1-888-988-4033 (24 hours)

-Offers both emergency shelter and transitional housing for women and their families who have experienced domestic violence and/or

sexual violence. *Emergency safe housing for male victims of domestic and/or sexual violence is also available within limits*.

Salvation Army

40 East Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-237-9008

-Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) and utility funds are available. Call the office for more information.

Samaritan Homeless Interim Program

87 East High Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-393-9545

-Emergency housing and shelter program

Volunteers of American-Agape House

122-128 East Maine Street
Somerville, NJ
908-707-9753

-Clients must be homeless and receive public assistance. Agape House receives client referrals through the local boards of Social Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Adult Protective Services and parole boards among others.

Center for Great Expectations

Somerset, NJ
732-247-7003

*Services for homeless pregnant women. Call for more information.

C. Food/Clothing  

[Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens](#) 

Flemington Area Food Pantry

154 Route 31 North
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-5568
Mon-Thurs 9:00am-11:30am
Select Wednesday evenings 5:30pm-8:00pm
Select Saturdays 9:30am-11:30am

Fish, Inc. Dunnellen Area

East Easy Street, Bldg. 9
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
24 Hour Hotline: 732-356-0081

Fisherman's Mark

37 South Main Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530
Phone: 609-397-0194
Fax: 609-397-7486
Pantry hours: M, W, F 10:00am-12:00pm (last person in line at 11:45pm) Tues-Thurs 3:00pm-5:00pm (last in line 4:45pm)
**Call ahead-pantry is subject to close for deliveries and staffing issues.

The Food Bank Network of Somerset CountyMain Warehouse

9E Easy Street (off Chimney Rock Rd.)
Middlebrook Crossroads Industrial Park
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
732-560-1813
M-F 9:00am-2:30pm

Bound Brook Pantry

Hope Church
519 East Main Street
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
Every Saturday 10:00am-11:30am

Somerville Food Pantry

The United Reformed Church
100 West Main Street
Somerville, NJ 08876

North Plainfield Food Pantry

Vermuele Community Center
Corner of Greenbrook Rd. and Clinton Ave.
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Franklin Township Food Bank

(For Franklin Township residents only)
60 Millstone Road
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-246-0009
Food distribution to clients: Mon-Thurs 11:00am-3:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-12:00pm
**Closed on Fridays and Sundays

Lighthouse Outreach Ministry

384 Somerset Street
North Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-754-6211
Pantry hours: every 2nd, 4th, and 5th Saturday of each month from 9:00am-12:00pm

Open Cupboard Food Pantry

37 Old Highway 22
Clinton, NJ 08809
908-730-7320
Tues 9:30-11:30am, 5:00-6:00pm
Weds & Thurs 9:30am-12:30pm
Fri 4:30-6:30pm

Reformed Church of Bound Brook

Main Street and Clinton Street
South Bound Brook, NJ 08880
732-356-9345
Soup Kitchen: Church provides dinner and fellowship on
Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm
Food Pantry: Serves residents of South Bound Brook and Bound
Brook on Thursdays from 3:00-6:00pm

St. John' Episcopal Church-SHIP'S GALLEY

148 West High Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-722-1250
Hot Lunches: Mon, Wed, Fri, 3rd Tues of the month: 12:30pm-
1:30pm


Clothing

The following places provide free or low-cost clothing.

The Clothes Closet

Flemington Assembly of God
434 Route 202 North
Flemington, NJ 088822
908-782-5232

From the Heart Thrift Shop

St. John's Episcopal Church
158 West High Street
Somerville, NJ 08876-0705
908-722-1250
First Thursday of every month (except July & August) from 11:00am-
6:30pm

Open Cupboard Thrift Shop

37 Old Highway 22
Clinton, NJ 08809
908-730-7320
Hours: Tues 9:30am-1:00pm, 4:30pm-7:00pm
Wed 9:30am-2:00pm, Thur 9:30am-1:00pm
Fri 4:30pm-7:00pm and Sat 10:00am-1:30pm

Second Chance Thrift Shop

The Friends of Matheny
4 Church Street
Gladstone, NJ 07934
908-234-2016
Mon 9:30am-6:00pm, Tue-Fri 9:30am-4:00pm
and Sat 10:00am-3:00pm

Top o'the Barn Thrift Shop

Califon United Methodist Church
15 River Road
Califon, NJ 07830
908-832-7018
T,W,Th, Sat 10:00am-2:00pm
*Half priced sales are the first full week of the month

**D. Transportation**

There is no general program to provide assistance paying for transportation. NJ Transit will no longer accept release papers in substitution 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 or bus cards to help you participate in the 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 fare 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 Hunterdon/Somerset County travel convenience, you may want to purchase weekly, monthly or discounted transit passes (when applicable).

The LINK -Hunterdon County's Transportation System

Offering services to ALL RESIDENTS OF Hunterdon County
1-800-842-0531
www.ridethelink.com

Trans-Bridge Bus Lines

1-800-962-9135
Clinton Office: 908-730-6552

Somerset County Bus Services

RideWise: 908-704-1011

Somerset County Transportation: 908-231-7151

*No appointment to ride and the fare is \$2.00 per trip. Buses operate Mon-Fri.

Transportation For The Disabled and Senior Citizens 1-800-955-2321 Call between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday- Friday. NJ Transit's Access Link paratransit service is comparable to the local bus service. This service is specifically for people whose disability prevents them from using the local fixed route bus service. You must call to be interviewed in person to determine your eligibility

Hunterdon County, The LINK

Paratransit Services

800-842-0531

Somerset County Transportation

Paratransit Services

908-321-7115 or 800-246-0547

Office of Amtrak Access

800-872-7245

Greyhound Customers with Disabilities Travel Assistance Line

800-752-4841

**E. Money/Public Assistance**

Once you are released from custody, you will need a source of income until you can find a job (see section of "Finding a Job" for job seeking information).

The DOC does not provide any "gate money," except for the money you may have had in your inmate account. If it is possible to save any money before you are released, you should try to do so.

Based on need, Parole can give up to \$300.00 in emergency funds, but it is at their discretion. Ask your parole officer about this.

You may be eligible to get some sort 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 provide 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 be actively looking for work and both have a five-year lifetime time 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 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 the eligibility requirements 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.

WFNJ and SNAP Application Sites

Hunterdon County

Division of Social Services

Community Services Building
6 Guantt Place-PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-1300

Somerset County Social Services

73 East High Street
PO Box 936
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-526-880

F: Veterans Benefits:



If you were receiving veteran's benefits, either for disability or a 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 other programs and services, including health care. You can contact the social worker in your institution located in the social services department for assistance. You can also contact the Veteran's Administration 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-NJ4U**.

The VA Benefit Administration is located at
20 Washington Pl., 3rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
973-645-1441 (regional office).

Hunterdon County Veterans Services

4 Guantt Place, Bldg. #1
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-1361 or 877-222-3737
Laine Nauman, Division Head

Somerset County Veterans Services

27 Warren Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-704-6329
Peter Niemiec, Director

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

Be aware that the VA takes considerable time to make decisions. On average, it can take 273 days to process a new application for benefits.

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. You can inquire about WIC at the city and county welfare offices.

Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support



The transition from prison back to society may take some time to get adjusted 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: Health Care Resources

It is very important that you pay attention to your health during the period after you are released, and that you make sure you have a plan to get any prescriptions that you need filled and see a doctor if

you have health conditions that need care. Also, stress and changes in routine can make much health conditions worse. Below, you'll find information on paying for health care and clinics and other resources in Hunterdon and Somerset 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 complete 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 receiving those benefits to qualify for Medicaid.**

For questions about [Medicaid eligibility](#), you can call 1-800-356-1561. To apply for Medicaid in Hunterdon or Somerset County visit and/or contact the county's Board of Social Services/Human Services.

If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for health care 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 other ways 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 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 Health Care Providers

Even if you do not have Medicaid or other health insurance or benefits, Hunterdon and Somerset County have 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.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Highlands Health Van-Medical/Dental

Serves Sussex, **Hunterdon**, Warren and Morris Counties
908-968-0898

Services: adult medicine, women's health, pediatrics and dental for adults and children. *Call for more information/schedule

Robert Wood Johnson Physician Enterprise Urgent Care

Flemington Location
240 Highway 202/31 North
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-685-2485
Mon-Fri 8:00am-8:00pm
Weekends and holidays 9:00am-4:00pm

Zufall Health-Somerville

71 4th Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-526-2335
Services: adult medicine, women's health, pediatrics and behavioral health.
Hours: Mon 8:00am-5:00pm, Tue 7:30am-7:00pm. Wed & Fri 7:30am-5:00pm and Thurs 7:30am-6:00pm

All of these centers accept Medicaid and some insurance plans, but also provide services on a sliding scale basis, additional fees for x-rays and lab work; Primary and preventive care. Staff there can help you apply for Medicaid or other benefits if you may be eligible.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Hunterdon County Division of Public Health Services

314 State Rt. 12, County Complex Bldg 1, PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-1351

Somerset County Health Department

27 Warren Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-231-7155

HOSPITALS

East Mountain Hospital

252 Route 601-PO Box 1029
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
908-281-1000

Hunterdon Medical Center

2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-6100

Matheny Medical and Educational Center

65 Highland Ave.-PO Box 339
Peapack, NJ 07977
908-234-0011

Somerset Medical Center

110 Rehill Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-685-2200

VA New Jersey Health Care System (Lyons)

151 Knollcroft Road
Lyons, NJ 07939
908-647-0180

FAMILY PLANNING CENTERS

Planned Parenthood-Flemington Health Center

349 Route 31 South, Building B, Suite 503
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-782-7727

Hours: Mon 10:00am-5:00pm, Wed 11:00am-7:00pm, Thurs
10:00am-4:00pm

Services: Abortion services, birth control, general health care, HIV
testing, LGBT services, men's health care, morning-after pill
(emergency contraception), pregnancy testing & services, STD
testing, treatment & vaccines, women's health care.

C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS

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

Ryan White Support Group

Provides support and education for those affected by HIV

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at
Somerset Medical Center,
908-685-2814

Zufall Health Somerville

Ryan White Program (HIV/AIDS Services)

71 4th Street

Somerville, NJ 08876

908-526-2335

For more information please contact the Ryan White medical Case
Manager, 973-328-9100 ext. 347

NJ AIDS/STD Hotline

1-800-624-2377 – 24 hours/day

The hotline gives referrals, general information, counseling, testing
locations and treatment information.

RAPID TESTING CENTERS

Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey

349 Route 31 South, Building B, Suite 503

Flemington, NJ 08822

908-782-7727

Zufall Health-Somerville

71 4th Street

Somerville, NJ 08876

908-526-2335

You may also call 973-328-9100 ext. 347 to schedule an
appointment

**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.

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

P.O. Box 363

Trenton, NJ 08625-0363

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 without insurance. Waiting lists can be long.

Metheny Medical and Educational Center

65 Highland Ave.

Peapack, NJ 07977

908-234-0011 ext. 785

Mon-Wed 9:00am-4:00pm

Services: preventative, restorative, prosthodontics, pedodontics and (simple) oral surgery.

Payment method(s): Medicaid, NJ Family Care, private insurance, self-pay and sliding scale.

For people with special needs

Zufall Dental Center

361 Route 31, Building C, Suite 701

Flemington, NJ 08822

908-968-4440

Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm

Services: preventative, restorative, prosthodontics, pedodontics and (simple) oral surgery.

Payment method(s): Medicaid, NJ Family Care, private insurance, self-pay and sliding scale.

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 Hunterdon and Somerset 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 you get in. There are Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support group meetings all over Hunterdon and Somerset County. To find a meeting near you, call 800-992-0401 (for NA) or 866-920-1212 (for AA). 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 Center Locations:

Aldie Counseling Center

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

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
Bayone, 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 Treatment Centers:

Addictions Hotline of New Jersey

PO Box 1004, Williamstown
800-238-2333

Hours: 24 hours/day

Provides NJ residents with information about the types of detox, evaluation, treatment, professional and support groups available to drug and alcohol abusers or addicts who wish to stop their use of chemical substances.

Anderson House, Inc.

A Turning Point Program
532 Route 523
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
908-534-5818

Serves women only

Blake Recovery Center

252 County Road 601 (also known as Trent Ave.)
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
1-800-933-3579

-Detox, outpatient and addiction treatment

Bridgeway Rehabilitation Inc.

Program in Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)

Millennium Office Plex

South Main Street, Suite 19-1

Manville, NJ 08835

908-704-8252 (PACT VI)

Program in Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)

Star Plaza, Suite 11

11 West Church Street

Washington, NJ 07882

908-835-8660 (PACT IV)

Residential Intensive Support Team (RIST)

Concourse at Beaver Brook

1465 Route 31 South

Annandale, NJ 08801

908-894-5311

Carrier Clinic

252 Route 601

Belle Mead, NJ 08502

800-933-3579

Inpatient and outpatient services

Catholic Charities-Spirit Program

6 Park Avenue

Flemington, NJ 08822

908-782-7905

-Intensive outpatient treatment/services (IOP)

Daytop Village

6 Guantt Place, Building #2

Flemington, NJ 08822

908-806-5196

-Serves *teens and young adults aged 18-24* in outpatient settings

Easter Seals NJ

Hunterdon

200 Route 31 North-Suite 115

Flemington, NJ 08822

908-788-7580 ext. 624

Somerset

21 Davenport Street

Somerville, NJ 08876

908-722-4300

-Residential services

Family & Community Services of Somerset County

339 West 2nd Street

Bound Brook, NJ 08805

732-356-1082

Mental health and addictions outpatient services

Freedom House

200 Sanitorium Rd.
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
908-537-6043

Halfway house, outpatient and intensive outpatient services

Freedom Trail Self Help Center

166 West Main Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-722-5778

High Point Program, LLC

162 Broad Street
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-5979

-Partial care, outpatient and intensive outpatient treatment/services

Hunterdon Behavioral Health

2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-6403

-Partial care services

Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center

500 North Bridge Street
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908-725-2800

Outpatient and partial care services

Somerset Treatment Services

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

-Intensive outpatient mental health and substance abuse services

FYI: While the medical care and drug treatment and/or detoxification facilities listed above may be able to assist you with medication for mental health issues, and some counseling as well, there are also places to go to get counseling and therapy and other mental health services. Some of these services require Medicaid or other insurance, but some will also have sliding scale payments.

Although the services below provide mental health services, some may also offer substance abuse services as well.

G. Emergency Mental Health Services

FYI: If at any time you may want to hurt yourself or someone else, please call 911. If you feel like you may be a danger to yourself or others, 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.

In the event of a mental health emergency,
call **609-396-HELP (4357)**

***If you are in immediate danger, call 911**

Hunterdon County

Dawn Paulmeno, Municipal Alliances/Substance Abuse Coordinator
Dept. of Human Services
PO Box 2900 Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-1253

Cathy Zahn, Mental Health Planner
Dept. of Human Services
8 Guantt Place
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-1372

Somerset County

Brenda Pateman
Dept. of Human Services
PO Box 300
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-704-6309

Pam Mastro, Mental Health Administrator
Dept. of Human Services
27 Warren Street, 3rd Floor
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-704-6320/6300

Primary Screening Centers for Hunterdon and Somerset County:

Hunterdon Medical Center

2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-6400

Somerset County PESS

110 Rehill Ave
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-526-4100

H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses/Eye care

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

69 Prospect Place
Belleville, NJ 07109
973-450-3030



NJ Commission for the Blind: Project BEST

Fixed Vision Screening Sites
Safe Harbor & Port Refuge
87 East High Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
Contact: Tom 908-393-9545
1st Thurs of the month 9:30am-12:30pm

New Eyes for the Needy

549 Millburn Avenue
PO Box 332
Short Hills, NJ 07078
973-376-4903
Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-12:30pm; 1:30pm-4:00pm
Friday (closed during July/August) 9:00am-12:00pm
Eligibility: Must be in financial need; have had a recent eye exam.
(New Eyes does not pay for eye exams but does provide referrals);
have no other resources available to pay for glasses, including
federal or state programs or assistance from local charitable
organizations; income at or below the U.S. poverty guidelines
*A New Eyes voucher typically covers only the cost of a basic pair of
single or bifocal eyeglasses.

Senior Eyecare Program (Hunterdon)

The Seniors Eyecare Program ensures that every senior has access to
medical eye care and promotes annual, dilated eye exams. The
program is designed for people who are U.S. citizens or legal
residents, are age 65 or older, have not seen an ophthalmologist in
three or more years and do not have eye care insurance through an
HMO or Veterans Administration
Call toll-free: 800-222-3937

**Finding a Job:
Employment Assistance and Training Programs**

Getting a job is usually one of the most important necessities when
released from prison. Not everyone can obtain employment
immediately, sometimes things like getting drug treatment, dealing
with your housing, health or family situation may come first. For
most people, though, finding work 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 about 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/she 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. A year of good job performance will make your criminal record matter less.

B. Help with Job Search and Job Training

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

Hunterdon County One-Stop Career Center

6 Gaunt Place (lower level)

Flemington, NJ 08822

908-782-2371

Somerset County One-Stop Career Center
75 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Suite 102
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-704-3000

Vocational Training Sites

Alternatives, Inc.

600 First Avenue
Raritan, NJ 08869
Counties Served: Somerset, Middlesex, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris
& Warren
Phone: (908) 685-1444 x 225
Fax: (908) 685-2660
-Supported employment

Center for Educational Advancement

11 Minneakoning Road
Flemington, NJ 08822
Counties Served: Hunterdon, Somerset
Phone: (908) 782-1480
Fax: (908) 782-5370
-Extended employment, supported employment, pre vocational
evaluation, and work adjustment training.

ARC of Hunterdon

1322 State Route 31
Suite 5
North Annandale, NJ 08801
Counties Served: Hunterdon
Phone: (908) 806-2412
Fax: (908) 806-2362
-Supported employment

The Arc of Somerset County

161 Industrial Parkway
Building C
Branchburg, NJ 08835
Counties Served: Somerset, Middlesex & Hunterdon
Phone: (908) 707-9130
Fax: (908) 707-1165
-Extended employment, pre vocational evaluation and work
adjustment training

Hunterdon Medical Center

Hunterdon Mental Health Center

2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822
Counties Served: Hunterdon
Phone: (908) 788-6401
Fax: (908) 788-6584
-Supported employment

Allies, Inc.
2277 State Highway 33
Suite 415
Hamilton, NJ 08690
Phone: (609) 584-5522
www.alliesnj.org
-Supported employment

Richard Hall CMHC
500 N. Bridge Street & Vogt Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Counties Served: Somerset
Phone: (908) 253-3128
Fax: (908) 704-1790
-Supported employment

Bethel Ridge Corp.
P.O. Box 138
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Counties Served: Morris, Somerset, Union,
Phone: (908) 221-0801
Fax: (908) 221-9169
-Supported employment

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 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

Within the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), your employer may be able to save up to \$4800 the first year you are hired. Make 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. Please contact your local one stop for more information.

Hunterdon County One-Stop Career Center

6 Gaunt Place (lower level)
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-782-2371

Somerset County One-Stop Career Center

75 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Suite 102
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-704-3000



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 I.D. (driver's license or non-driver state I.D.), 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 using the computer), job and course listings, and other local directories. Libraries also often carry the government forms mentioned in this guide, and librarians can help you find other information that you need.

Hunterdon County Libraries

Headquarters Library

314 State Route 12, Bldg. #3
Flemington, NJ 08822
Main phone: (908) 788-1444

High Bridge Public Library

71 Main Street
High Bridge, NJ 08829
Telephone: (908) 638-8231

Bunnvale Library

7 Bunnvale Road
Califon, NJ 07830
Telephone: (908) 638-8884

Holland Free Public Library

129 Spring Mills Road
Milford, NJ 08848
Telephone: (908) 995-4767

Flemington Free Public Library

118 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822
Telephone: (908) 782-5733

Lambertville Free Public Library

6 Lilly Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530
Telephone: (609) 397-0275

Frenchtown Public Library

29 Second Street
Frenchtown, NJ 08825
Telephone: (908) 996-4788

Milford Public Library
40 Frenchtown Road
Milford, NJ 08848
Telephone: (908) 995-4072

North County Branch Library
65 Halstead Street
Clinton, NJ 08809
Main phone: (908) 730-6262

Readington Township Library
255 Main Street
Whitehouse Station, NJ
08889
Telephone: (908) 534-4421

South County Branch Library
1432 Route 179, Unit B1
Lambertville, NJ 08530
Telephone: (609) 773-0032

Tewksbury Township Public Library
31 Old Turnpike Road
Oldwick, NJ 08858
Telephone: (908) 439-376

Three Bridges Library
449 Main Street
Three Bridges, NJ 08887
Telephone: (908) 782-2908

Somerset County Public Libraries

Bound Brook Memorial Library Branch
402 E High St.
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
732-356-0043

Bridgewater Library Branch
1 Vogt Dr.
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908-526-4016

Hillsborough Library Branch
379 South Branch Rd.
Hillsborough Municipal Complex
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
908-369-2200

Manville Library Branch
100 South 10th Ave.
Manville, NJ 08835
908-722-9722

Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Branch
64 Washington St.
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553
609-924-7073

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

Peapack & Gladstone Library Branch
Peapack & Gladstone Municipal Complex
School St.
Peapack, NJ 07977
908-234-0598

Somerville Library Branch
35 West End Ave.
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-725-1336

Warren Township Library Branch
42 Mountain Blvd.
Warren, NJ 07059
908-754-5554

Watchung Library Branch
12 Stirling Rd.
Watchung, NJ 07069
908-561-0117

Branchburg Reading Station
Neshanic Station Library
The Station House
Olive St.
Neshanic Station, NJ 08853
908-369-5355



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) NJ-ABUSE (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 (855) 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.

Hunterdon County Family Success Center

87 Park Avenue
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-237-0465

EmPower Family Success Center

34 West Main Street, 2nd Floor
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-722-4400

Family Support Organization (FSO)

Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren Counties
315 West Washington Avenue, Suite 3
Washington, NJ 07882
908-223-1191

Hunterdon Prevention Resources

Unifying Families/Strengthening Families
4 Walter E. Foran Blvd., Suite 410
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-782-3909



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 DCPD in Hunterdon and Somerset County. Please contact the office that applies to your location.

Hunterdon LO- #668

84 Park Ave., 1st Floor
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-782-8784
800-392-2724

Somerset LO- #660

92 East Main Street, Suite
101
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-526-5030
800-392-2734

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 (“noncustodial”) 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 well 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. From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner’s Self Help Legal Clinic, P.O. 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 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 “arrear.” 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. Here are some things you can do:

Hunterdon County Child Support

65 Park Ave.
Flemington, NJ 08822
1-877-655-4371
To enforce an existing order

Hunterdon County Division of Social Services, Community Services Center

6 Guantt Place PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822
1-877-655-4371
To locate a parent prior to an order

Hunterdon County Justice Center

65 Park Ave. PO Box 578
Flemington, NJ 08822
1-877-655-4371
To establish or change an order

Somerset County Board of Social Services

73 East High Street PO Box 936
Somerville, NJ 08876
1-877-655-4371
To locate a parent prior to an order

Somerset County Child Support County Courthouse

20 North Bridge Street PO Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876
1-877-655-4371
To enforce an existing order

Somerset County Courthouse

North Bridge & High Streets, 2nd Floor, PO Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876
1-877-655-4371
To establish or change an order

D. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Resources

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

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women:

1-800-572-SAFE.

Domestic Abuse Hotline for Men and Women:

(888) 7HELPLINE (1-888-743-5754)

Resource Center of Somerset

427 Homestead Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
908-359-0003
Counseling to adult and child victims of domestic violence, case management, legal advocacy, emergency housing up to 60 days, transitional housing up to 18 months, crisis response (alongside

police), advice and referrals, domestic violence training for professionals and community education programs for adults and adolescents

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

34 West Main Street #301

Somerville, NJ 08876

908-231-0840

Free legal representation for a limited number of low-income victims of domestic violence.

Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

Somerset County Prosecutor's Office

40 North Bridge Street

Somerville, NJ 08876

908-575-3359

Services to ease victims' participation in the criminal justice process and deal with the trauma of victimization

SAFE in Hunterdon

47 East Main Street

Flemington, NJ 08822

908-788-7666

Toll-free hotline" 888-988-4033

Services include: crisis intervention, safe housing, transitional housing, counseling, legal advocacy, economic empowerment, etc.



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/njed/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 many opportunities.

B. GED Classes

The places in Hunterdon & Somerset 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 LOCATIONS

Raritan Valley Community College
Route 28 & Lamington Rd.
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-526-1200 ext. 8354

Washington County Technical School
1500 Route 57 West
Washington, NJ 07882
908-835-2480

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 phone numbers for Hunterdon and Somerset County.

LOCAL AREA COLLEGES

Raritan Valley Community College
118 Lamington Rd.
Branchburg, NJ 08876
908-526-1200

St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary
1950 Easton Ave.
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-469-7555

CAN I GET FINANCIAL AID?

To pay for this, 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 for **Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ)**, which provides information and referrals, **888-576-5529**. From prison, you can also contact the **Prisoner’s Self Help Legal Clinic**, P.O. 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
P.O. 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 get 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>

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

Hunterdon County

82 Park Ave.
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-782-7979

Somerset County

34 West Main Street,
Suite 301
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-231-0840

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. That 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 SERVICES, LLC:

Write to them at P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA, 30374, or call 800-685-1111.

By mail, be sure to include your full name, current address, Social Security number, and most recent former address for file-matching purposes. You can also visit their website: www.equifax.com

TRANSUNION PERSONAL CREDIT REPORT:

PO Box 1000, Chester PA 19022

Call 800-888-4213 or www.transunion.com

EXPERIAN:

PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013

Call 800-397-3742.

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 the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live or from your Municipal Clerk. Registration forms are also available in various State agencies and at Motor Vehicle Commission 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 some 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: _____

Do I Have Identification?

I.D. Checklist

Documents	Have?	Need?
Strong Box	_____	_____
Social Security Card	_____	_____
Birth Certificate	_____	_____
County I.D.	_____	_____
Driver's License	_____	_____
Non-driver's I.D.	_____	_____

Certificate of Naturalization	_____	_____
Green Card	_____	_____
Military Discharge Papers	_____	_____
Passport	_____	_____
High School Diploma		
Or GED Certificate	_____	_____
Prison Release Papers	_____	_____

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

Notes: _____

**Important Names and Phone Numbers
(Parole, Mentor, Emergency Contact, etc)**

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Smart Book Topics



**Getting Started:
I.D. and 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