

# REENTRY PACKET

Your Customized Guide to Support your Successful Transition



National Web-based Reentry Resource Center

[www.fairshake.net](http://www.fairshake.net)

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# Maurice Sprewer

414.874.1657 (list the BEST contact number you have)

[Maurice.sprewer@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Maurice.sprewer@dwd.wisconsin.gov)

*(be sure that your email address is professional)*

## EXAMPLE of a FUNCTIONAL Resume'

### Production Worker and General Laborer Committed to Safety and Quality

*(personal branding statement - describes position and a quality that makes you great at it)*

#### Summary of Skills: *(make sure the skills are relevant to the job you are applying for - usually found in the job description)*

- Sorting, grading, weighing, and inspecting products, verifying and adjusting product weight or measurement to meet specifications.
- Observing machine operations to ensure quality and conformity of filled or packaged products to standards.
- Monitoring the production line, watching for problems such as pile-ups, jams, or glue that isn't sticking properly.
- Attaching identification labels to finished packaged items, or cut stencils and stencil information on containers, such as lot numbers or shipping destinations.
- Stocking and sorting product for packaging or filling machine operation, and replenishing packaging supplies, such as wrapping paper, plastic sheet, boxes, cartons, glue, ink, or labels.
- Packaging the product in the form in which it will be sent out, for example, filling bags with flour from a chute or spout.
- Inspecting and removing defective products and packaging material.
- Starting machine by engaging controls.
- Removing finished packaged items from machine and separate rejected items.
- Counting and recording finished and rejected packaged items.
- Stopping or resetting machines when malfunctions occur, clearing machine jams, and reporting malfunctions to a supervisor.
- Removing products, machine attachments, or waste material from machines.
- Transferring finished products, raw materials, tools, or equipment between storage and work areas of plants and warehouses, by hand or using hand trucks.
- Packing and storing materials and products.
- Helping production workers by performing duties of lesser skill, such as supplying or holding materials or tools, or cleaning work areas and equipment.
- Counting finished products to determine if product orders are complete.
- Measuring amounts of products, lengths of extruded articles, or weights of filled containers to ensure conformance to specifications.
- Following procedures for the use of chemical cleaners and power equipment to prevent damage to floors and fixtures.
- Mixing water and detergents or acids in containers to prepare cleaning solutions, according to specifications.
- Loading and unloading items from machines, conveyors, and conveyances.
- Operate machinery used in the production process, or assist machine operators.
- Placing products in equipment or on work surfaces for further processing, inspecting, or wrapping.

#### Relevant Production and General Labor Experience

##### General Laborer (Position while incarcerated)

State of Wisconsin / Badger State Industries / FBOP *(whichever applies)*

year - year

City, State

##### Previous Relevant Employment

Previous Employer

year - year

City, State

##### Other Experience

##### Previous Relevant Employment

Previous Employer

year - year

City, State

#### Education

Relevant Education

*(Relevant Degree / Diploma)*

*Created by Maurice Sprewer Employment & Training Specialist / Reentry Coordinator  
DWD / Job Service 4201 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 602 Milwaukee, WI 53216*



## Fair Shake's Guide to TRUCKING OPPORUTNITIES!

### American Trucking Associations

ATA Headquarters  
950 North Glebe Road, Suite 210  
Arlington, VA 22203-4181



<https://www.trucking.org/>

From their website: American Trucking Associations is the largest and most comprehensive national trade association for the trucking industry. ATA is an 86-year old federation with state trucking association affiliates in all 50 states. We represent every sector of the industry, from LTL to truckload, agriculture and livestock to auto haulers, and from large motor carriers to small mom-and-pop operations.



### Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association

OOIDA HEADQUARTERS  
1 NW OOIDA Dr.  
Grain Valley, MO 64029  
816-229-5791 800-444-5791

<https://www.ooida.com/>



The mission of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc. is to serve owner-operators, small fleets and professional truckers; to work for a business climate where truckers are treated equally and fairly; to promote highway safety and responsibility among all highway users; and to promote a better business climate and efficiency for all truck operators. More than 150,000 members of OOIDA are men and women in all 50 states and Canada who collectively own and/or operate more than 240,000 individual heavy-duty trucks and small truck fleets. All OOIDA officers and directors are now, or have been, professional truckers, and are elected from the membership, by the membership. The 22-member board helps define OOIDA's position on all major trucking issues. They offer information and education in all areas of independent truck ownership and responsibility.



**Gary's Job Board:** [www.garysjobboard.com](http://www.garysjobboard.com)  
Truck Drivers wanted! Since 2004.

Gary can find you a better truck driving job, with or without a CDL.

Gary's Job Board was created to help Truck Drivers find Driving Jobs, and to help Dispatchers find Drivers. Gary's Job Board is 100% unaffiliated. We DO NOT recruit for any carriers. Our service will always be FREE to drivers because drivers' rock. Here's how garysjobboard.com works: (this is NOT a run-of-the-mill trucker job board. No one will call you, you have all the power).

- Complete your Driver Profile, it takes 2 minutes.
- Companies will see your first name, type of CDL, and experience level.
- They will not see your email address.
- You will receive a company invite by email and the email will come from our system.
- Check out what they are offering. Answer the email or not. You'll receive another invite down the road.



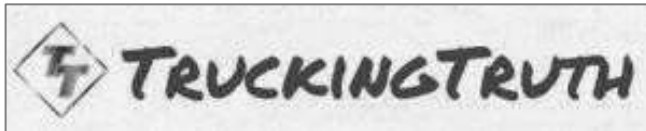
**AllTrucking.com** [www.alltrucking.com](http://www.alltrucking.com)  
PO Box 26330,  
Overland Park, KS, 66213

"Welcome to AllTrucking.com, your source for finding information to become a truck driver and find a trucking

career. Whether you are looking for your next truck driving job or want to learn how to earn your CDL, we have guides for you. We have even organized some of the more common questions that might be found on a CDL exam, and put them into a simple practice test! "

They have a library of guidebooks - from career support and paying for school to helping veterans – "we've got a resource to help anybody." Here are a few of our most frequently requested pages:

- How to Pay for Truck Driving School
- Truck Driving Jobs: Careers in Commercial Truck Driving
- Company-Paid CDL Training Programs: A Comprehensive Guide



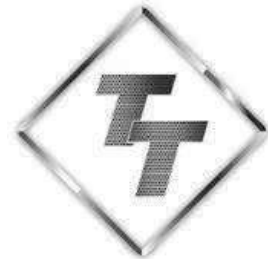
**Trucking Truth**  
[www.truckingtruth.com](http://www.truckingtruth.com)

A Positive Yet Honest View Of The Trucking Industry With Friendly Advice From Experienced Drivers

Trucking Truth (TT) was created in 2007 to give new drivers a true picture of what a career as a truck driver is all about and a straightforward strategy for surviving that first year of their career. I wanted people to know that trucking can be an awesome career for the right person and it's totally doable if you work hard, keep a great attitude, and have a solid strategy in place.

A huge informational website that includes:

- Trucker's Forum
- Truck Driver's Career Guide
- Free CDL Practice test
- A list of companies that hire people with a criminal history.
- "The Road Home" podcast
- All things CDL
- Trucking Company Reviews
- Trucking Wiki...where you can find out FAQ's, physical health tests and issues, limitations and opportunities for drivers with a criminal history, driving with pets and much more.



### Get Paid While Training For Your CDL?

Upon completion of your paid CDL training, you will sign an agreement to work for the company for a specified amount of time. This is how they recoup the time and money they've invested in your CDL training, which is a very fair deal for both sides.

If you quit working for the company before your obligation is complete, you will owe the company a prorated amount of money for the schooling. At some companies, your training will be free once your obligation is complete. Others may require you to make payments from your paycheck to cover the tuition for the schooling.

TT offers a review of the companies that offer paid CDL training.



## Find A Job

Finding employment is one of the top priorities of most people in society. Finding employment after incarceration is not only pivotal for reentry success, it can also be a requirement for parole or a halfway house.

It is important to find satisfaction in our jobs, but sometimes we must temper our wishes with our needs.

When we have to take a job that we are not excited about now, we can leverage the feelings of dissatisfaction to push us toward whatever it is that we need to do to find satisfaction. These things may include: submitting applications for jobs that we really want but may not be available now, or trying to work in an organization that has a similar philosophy to our own so we can move within the organization to a job that is more fulfilling, or perhaps we need to get the education required for certain positions, or maybe what we really want is to start our own business but need to work a 'day job' until our idea provides enough income for us to thrive.

Knowing there are many avenues to employment, Fair Shake offers several ways for you to engage within our website.

**Remember: most jobs get filled without ever being listed on a website!**

When searching for employment, remember to consider what it is you want to do. What type of business would you like to work in, and in which positions do you think you would do well? What kind of jobs might you enjoy doing? Keep your eyes on the prize! Even if you must work in a job you don't care for now, remember that you are building character, patience, tolerance and REFERENCES. The image to the right is what our "Get A Job" page looks like today. This page, like all pages on the Fair Shake website, is constantly evolving. Please let us know what you think!


## Fair Shake Employment Pages

Find a Job

### Find a Job (or Start Your Own Business)

#### Job Search Engines

All search engines available online only


[job-applications.com](http://job-applications.com)


#1 Independent Online Job Application Website

We offer links to online application pages and printable job application forms from our comprehensive database. We feature information on 1,500 popular companies in major industries such as fast food, retail, grocery stores, hotels and restaurants. Each company listed has a page which includes company history, service offered and common job opportunities. <https://www.job-applications.com/>

#### Way Up

<https://www.wayup.com/>

We feel strongly that opportunity belongs to all, and that an individual should never be limited by their economic status, race, sexual orientation, gender, who you know, where you went to school, or where you're from.



#### glassdoor


<https://www.glassdoor.com/>

Glassdoor is one of the fastest growing jobs and recruiting sites. It holds a growing database of millions of company reviews, CEO approval ratings, salary reports, interview reviews and questions, benefits reviews, office photos and more. No other site allows you to see which employers are hiring, what it's really like to work or interview there according to employees, and how much you could earn.

#### Jobs for Felons Hub

<http://jobsforfelonshub.com/>


A resource website created by a few folks who have personally watched their loved ones struggle to get a job due to having a felony. They share their free reentry employment guide here. Check out their website or their Facebook page for more information! <http://jobsforfelonshub.com/start-here/> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jobsforfelonshub>



#### Successful Release


We have personally contacted each company for information regarding jobs for felons. <https://successfulrelease.com/jobs-for-felons/>

Guide to Finding a Job Through Networking <https://successfulrelease.com/who-hires-felons-where-to-network-to-find-jobs-for-felons/>



#### Formerly Incarcerated College Graduate Network

<https://www.ficgn.org/job-leads> Discover career-related jobs that welcome formerly incarcerated applicants and see the value in your lived experience.




#### Jobline

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-414-6748 If you are looking for employment, Jobline is a free public service available on the telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. New jobs are listed on the system each day, and jobs that are filled are removed. All that is required is a touch-tone telephone to establish your personalized job-search profile. The system is designed for you to use each day during your job search.

#### USA Jobs

An official website of the United States government <https://www.usajobs.gov/>



O\*Net  
Occupation Search! <https://www.onetonline.org>


All of these websites have thousands of jobs available at different employability levels:

Indeed.com Simplyhired.com Monster.com Linkedup.com

#### Non-profit Job Search Engines:

##### Idealist


[www.idealst.org](http://www.idealst.org) Jobs, Internships and Volunteer Opportunities (that can sometimes turn in to jobs...)



##### Jobs That Help

<https://www.jobsthathelp.com/>


WISCONSIN JOB SEEKERS! Looking for a meaningful career that makes a positive difference in your community? Whether you are an experienced professional or an enthusiastic newcomer, you have come to the right place!



##### Encore


[www.encore.org](http://www.encore.org)

Jobs for people 50+ yrs of age



##### Philanthropy News Digest

Philanthropy News Digest: all levels of non-profit jobs.




<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/jobs>

##### GIGS: Single or multiple day opportunities

For an interesting temp option, you can check out the Craigslist in your area under 'Gigs'. You'll find opportunities that include moving furniture, doing yard work for a few hours, car dismantling, CDL temporary jobs, staff for weekend events, handyman, cleaning, carpentry, welding, electrical, plumbing, painting, brand ambassadors (reps) and much more. Many of these gigs have opportunities that can turn into jobs.

Keep the author's intent in mind when searching on Craig's list. Beware that some listings are quite sketchy...

<https://newyork.craigslist.org/>



#### Gary's Job Board: Truck Drivers wanted!

Gary can find you a better truck driving job, with or without a CDL.

Website: <http://www.garysjobboard.com/>

More information about trucking / driving jobs:

<https://www.fairshake.net/employment-trucking-driving-jobs/>


#### Prepare For Work!

[www.fairshake.net/prepare-for-work/](http://www.fairshake.net/prepare-for-work/)

- Resume Writing Ideas
- Letter of Explanation
- Prepare For Your Interview
- ... and much more!

#### Employer Support

Give employers tools and information to help them hire you.



Share this document with your potential employers to help them hire you.


#### Bonding, WOTC, and EEOC filers

- You are bondable
- Federal Bonding Filer
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit Filer
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: Background Checks
- More on Background Checks: What Applicants Need to Know
- Formerly Incarcerated Individuals' Job Restrictions (US and Wisconsin) Created by the WI-DDC

#### US Department of Labor CareerOneStop

Formerly Incarcerated Reemployment

<http://www.careeronestop.org/ExOffender/index.aspx>



Watch The Video!

1-877-348-0502 TTY: 1-877-348-0501

Career OneStop Locations:

Alabama Louisiana Ohio

#### Start Your Own Business

It's not easy, but for the creative, courageous and tenacious, it's often the right thing to do. Here are a few documents to help you get started.

- From the Small Business Administration
- Business Plan Template



## Prepare For Work

There are many ways to approach employment. Some people 'know somebody', sometimes we get lucky and meet our new boss or coworkers where we volunteer or through a recreational activity...but most of us will write resumes, find available jobs online or through an employment agency, fill out applications and then endure one or many job interviews.

Thanks to the generosity of several resume' writing professionals and job readiness coaches, we've assembled what we've found to support you as you build your resume', your interview skills, and your confidence!


While the information here addresses several of the concerns of job seekers, we want to encourage you to also consider topics from the "Free School" section of this book, the website or the software, to support you through the inevitable challenges that will occur as you create desirable outcomes.

Please remember: many employers want to hear more about how you built yourself up while you were incarcerated than they do about your past. Keep the conversation positive!

They want to know that you care. That you will be a good listener and team member, if you can embrace the company culture, learn, follow through and get things done. They want to know that you are interested and motivated.

### Prepare for Work

Everyone prepares for work in a different way. Fair Shake offers many tools for you to use in the way that you choose to prepare for temporary jobs or long-term careers.



**O\*Net**  
Occupation Search! <https://www.onetonline.org>

#### The Resume Writing Academy

[www.resumewritingacademy.com](http://www.resumewritingacademy.com)

**Resume Writing** This document generously shared with Fair Shake by The Resume Writing Academy thanks to: Wendy Enelow, MRW, CCM, CPRW, JCTC and Louise Kursmark, MRW, CCM, CPRW, JCTC

- Resume Examples
- Top Tips & Techniques for Writing Best-in-Class Resumes
- Free 78-minute resume writing audio webcast with printable handouts.
- Best Resumes and Letters for Ex-Offenders

A resume guide that addresses special employment issues facing ex-offenders.

**Raw Resume**

<http://www.rawresume.com/write-resume-definitive-guide>

**How to Write a Great Resume: The Definitive Guide** This guide will take you from start to finish through all the aspects of a great resume and help you transform your current one into an interview-winning resume. Written for beginner and intermediate job seekers. Print or read The Complete Guide to A Winning Resume - Cheat Sheet to get started. Here I am - Resume Writing That Gets Noticed. The Complete Guide to a Winning Resume Cheat-Sheet

Discussing Your History in the Interview

- Discussing Criminal History in the Interview

#### Other Employment Support

**Jails to Jobs**

[http://www.jailstojobs.org/html/help\\_with\\_new\\_entry.html](http://www.jailstojobs.org/html/help_with_new_entry.html)

Jails to Jobs is an organization that gives ex-offenders the tools they need to find employment. On this website you'll find a step-by-step plan to follow as you carry out your job search.

**Livecareer.com**

Livecareer.com offers great tools and resources for exploring careers, whether you're searching for a new job or considering a career change. See more at:

<https://www.livecareer.com/quintessential/career-exploration>

**how2become.com**

How2become.com offers a resource guide that provides detailed insight into how to answer certain questions, body language and more.

<https://www.how2become.com/resources/interview-skills/>

#### Fair Shake Employment Documents

Available Offline and Online

- Employment Tips
- Resume Guide
- Interview Tips
- Interview Questions for You to Ask
- Sample Interview Questions
- Computer and Internet Tips
- Letter of Explanation
- Functional Resume Example
- Accomplishments and Skills Worksheet
- Employer Support
- Resume Examples
- Favorite Verbs for Your Resume
- Sample Employment Application
- Cover Letter | Thank You Letter
- Self Employment

**Employer Support!**

Share this document with your potential employers to help them hire you.

#### Bonding, WOTC, and EEOC fliers

- You are bondable | Federal Bonding Flier
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit Flier
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: Background Checks
- More on Background Checks: What Applicants Need to Know
- Formerly Incarcerated Individuals' Job Restrictions (US and Wisconsin) Created by the WI-DOJ

#### Start Your Own Business

It's not easy, but for the creative, courageous and tenacious, it's often the right thing to do. Here are a few documents to help you get started.

- From the Small Business Administration
- Small Business Administration: Start A Business!
- From the Consumer Information Center: Planning and Goal Setting for A Small Business
- Minding Your Own Business
- How to Write a Business Plan
- From the Fair Shake Reentry Packet
- Self Employment

#### US Department of Labor Career Onestop

**Formerly Incarcerated Reemployment**

<http://www.careeronestop.org/ExOffenderIndex.aspx>

**careeronestop**

Watch The Video!

1-877-348-0502 TTY: 1-877-348-0501

**Career Onestop - Locations:**

Alabama	Louisiana	Ohio
Alaska	Maine	Oklahoma
Arizona	Maryland	Oregon
Arkansas	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
California	Michigan	Rhode Island
Colorado	Minnesota	South Carolina
Connecticut	Mississippi	South Dakota
Delaware	Missouri	Tennessee
Florida	Montana	Texas
Georgia	Nevada	Vermont
Hawaii	New Hampshire	Virginia
Idaho	New Jersey	Washington
Illinois	New Mexico	West Virginia
Indiana	New York	Wisconsin
Iowa	North Carolina	Wyoming
Kansas	North Dakota	
Kentucky		

**Career Onestop**

Put together a successful job search with resources on resumes, interviewing, networking and finding job openings.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/JobSearch/job-search.aspx>

Everything in this section available Online Only

- America's Service Locator** connects individuals to employment and training opportunities available at local American Job Centers. [www.ServiceLocator.org](http://www.ServiceLocator.org)
- America's Career InfoNet** occupation and industry information, salary data and career exploration assistance. [www.CareerInfoNet.org](http://www.CareerInfoNet.org)
- mySkills myFuture** helps career changers find new occupations to explore. [www.mySkillsmyFuture.org](http://www.mySkillsmyFuture.org)
- Veterans ReEmployment** is a one-stop website for employment, training, and financial help after military service. [www.CareerOneStop.org/ReEmployment/Veterans](http://www.CareerOneStop.org/ReEmployment/Veterans)

#### About The Fair Shake Personal Web Page

Personal Web Page Example

- Members differentiate themselves from other applicants!
- Members share information easily. No need to carry documents; they are stored in their account.
- Shows dedication to reentry success and provides a place to demonstrate interest in taking a proactive approach by sharing skills, character traits, and intentions.
- Employers and property managers can get to know members comfortably, reducing likelihood of auto-dismissal based on felony history.
- Fair Shake Member Card provides member information, url and password to the member's page.
- Member Web Page password is changeable! Access only given to current password holders.
- Fair Shake can verify references, even for volunteer work. Check out our example Personal Web Page | Personal Web Page Flyer | Fair Shake Brochure

Also available to Fair Shake members is a free email account, data storage and tutorials to learn to use electronic tools.

#### National Resources and Information

Advice from a Senior U.S. Probation Officer Workforce Development Coordinator

<http://community.ncdo.gov/forums/p/46711/85165>

- Federal Bureau of Prisons Employment Information Handbook
- Background Checks - EEOC

**Veterans Employment Assistance: The Transition Assistance Program (TAP)** was established to meet the needs of veterans during their period of transition into civilian life by offering job-search assistance and related services. The guide books below were created specifically to support you by applying

## Transition Tips

Reentry can be both exciting and frustrating! Our attitude toward release from prison is that it should be a simple matter of getting resettled, resuming routines, and reestablishing your relationships; but reality proves there is much more to it than that. Here is a list of tips to consider that can help you go through the transition process:

1. **Mentally prepare for the adjustment process.** Be prepared for anything... especially the most challenging things like rejection, depression, anger and disappointment. Also, be prepared for things to be NOT as you expect them to be.
2. **Give yourself permission to ease into the transition.** Allow yourself the space and time to acclimate to your new environment. Don't worry if it takes you a little while to get used to things again. You'll need time to reflect upon what is going on around you.
3. **Understand that the familiar will seem different.** You have changed; home has changed. You will see familiar people, places, and behaviors from new perspectives.
4. **Expect to do some 'cultural catching up'.** Clothes, trends, language, and more have changed!
5. **Reserve judgments.** Reserve all judgments of others, but especially negative judgments; just as you would like to have others reserve judgments of you. Resist the impulse to make snap decisions.
6. **Expect mood swings.** It is entirely possible for you to feel ecstatic one moment and completely defeated a short time later. It's okay; it is a part of the process.
7. **Allow sufficient time for reflection and self-analysis.** Your most valid and valuable analysis of an event is likely to take place after allowing time for reflection. Consider your core values and determine how you can live within them.
8. **Respond to inquiries thoughtfully and carefully.** Prepare to greet surprise questions with a calm, thoughtful approach. If you find yourself being overly defensive or aggressive, take a deep breath and relax.
9. **Seek support networks.** Don't isolate yourself! There are people who want to help you through your transition. You will find them if you look...
10. **Volunteer.** A great way to connect to community, build references and network with people and possibilities is to volunteer.

To prepare yourself for upcoming challenges, it is safe to expect the following:

- You will have to prove yourself (over and over and over).
- People will make many assumptions about who you are now.
- You will be different than when you left; your family and friends will be different, too!
- People will expect a lot from you.
- The way you'd hoped things would be will be different from the way they are.
- You will feel down or depressed after the initial return 'honeymoon' period. Please refer to our Culture Shock! page for further transition considerations.



# Culture Shock!

Most of the information Fair Shake shares is for everyone to read, because everyone plays an important role is creating opportunities for success after incarceration. This document has been created to increase generosity and understanding between the people who are coming home from prison and the people who have not experienced prison. Whether family, co-workers, neighbors, or friends, it's important to try to think about how hard it must be to 'hit the ground running' after living in such a stark and controlled environment, while gadgets, lingo, and trends are mutating quickly and constantly.

In many aspects, life in prison functions in opposite ways to life outside of prison.

Although we cannot grasp what prison culture is like, if we can imagine living for several years on a confined piece of land surrounded by fences while living, working and eating in cement buildings, we begin to scratch the surface of a very different daily life. Inside prisons (and outside of administrator's offices) we find few, if any, potted plants, curtains, pictures on the walls, or carpets on the floors to provide a little comfort and absorb sound. Sleeping quarters are often very small, sometimes made smaller by the addition of a toilet, a sink and possibly another person. Other sleeping spaces can include large dormitories filled with dozens of bunk

beds and little or no privacy or quiet. People in prison do things in large groups frequently, like dining and going to work, while everyone in prison is living within their own unique story, too, which may include difficult news from the doctor, a lawyer, or family and friends, at any time. Oftentimes people must bear their hard news alone.

Prisons have unique cultures, which can vary a great deal: over the years, within one institution, between institutions, and amidst the types of institutions (federal / state; or security levels). Not only do the people change, but also the philosophy and directive of "corrections".

We all become acculturated or "institutionalized" to places where we spend a lot of time: where we work, go to school, our neighborhood, etc. When we return home after spending time in another culture, our own customs can feel a little strange. We can adjust to a wide variety of conditions over time and even assume new cultural norms without consciously deciding to do so. Just as we need time to adjust to a new neighborhood or job, people coming home need time, generosity and understanding to adjust, too.

We have power! We can build relationships, trust and understanding by reducing expectations and projections; and by increasing listening and care.

## Consider just a small sample of cultural and lifestyle differences:

### Persona

**IN PRISON:** Survival in some prisons may require a tough appearance. Gentleness and kindness may be perceived to be weak, leading to a person being taken advantage of mentally, physically, or both. Maintaining a stoic exterior, keeping thoughts to one's self can be useful in prison.

**OUT OF PRISON:** Friendliness, smiles, and engaging conversations can show others we are open to interaction. These sociable attributes are critical for success many jobs.

### Trust

**IN PRISON:** Trust is hard to give and hard to gain. Concealment of emotions is important in many circumstances but it can make trust more difficult to attain.

**OUT OF PRISON:** One of our most treasured character traits is honesty. Trust is an important element in any relationship; whether with family, friends, or work-related. We work hard to build long- lasting relationships. It is within these deeper relationships that we can learn more about ourselves.

### Choices

**IN PRISON:** In addition to having an established schedule in prison, incarcerated people have few choices about where to go, what to wear, what colors they would like to see on the walls, or what they would like to eat for breakfast.

**OUT OF PRISON:** We constantly make decisions. Life moves at a brisk pace with frequent changes. We're constantly adjusting our plans, and re-prioritizing our goals to accommodate others and still keep time for ourselves. Lots of choice!

## **Gizmos**

**IN PRISON:** There are few gizmos. One gizmo is the music player. For twice the cost that unincarcerated people pay for a single song, an incarcerated person – who often earns about 1/100th of what they would earn outside of prison – can add a song to their MP3 player. Another gizmo is the 'public computer', which offers email and news within the institution. The most advanced gizmos are the tablets, which may or may not be free to the user. They offer email, music and movie services that generally come with a cost, and may include free services, too, such as books from Project Gutenberg, prison and education programming, or even Fair Shake's free software.

**OUT OF PRISON:** Gizmos, such as phones, tablets and laptops are ubiquitous. The devices demand attention which many of us eagerly provide. They offer non-stop distractions from 'real life' in the form of videos (many of which people make and post themselves), TV, social media, email, music and radio. Gizmos are also able to offer two-way communication through text, voice or video options.

## **Social Media**

**IN PRISON:** People watching TV together, people reading the same article and then talking about it, and even teleconferencing visits with family or friends are pretty much the extent of social media.

**OUT OF PRISON:** Social media is on almost every gizmo, and the pressure to join facebook, twitter, instagram and linkedin is great.

Many of us claim social media is 'pro-social' and boosts our awareness of current events and their meaning, but it has been tied to anxiety, depression and suicide.

## **Quiet Time**

**IN PRISON:** Prisons are noisy places. They offer few quiet places or opportunities for time alone. The buildings are made of concrete and offer few furnishings to reduce noise. When people get upset, they may become loud. Many incarcerated people keep earplugs with them at all times.

**OUT OF PRISON:** Life is very busy and we are constantly interacting; the gizmos make sure of that. We have to be strong and determined to carve out time to be alone...to reflect on our day, our perspective, and life, or to sit quietly and listen. Quiet time can be rejuvenating and reaffirming.

## **Care-giving**

**IN PRISON:** Incarcerated people are not able to provide daily, in-person physical or emotional care for children, partners, parents, or pets.

**OUT OF PRISON:** Caring for others is constantly affirming, taxing, challenging, and invigorating! We need to be needed, and we feel good supporting those we care about. Caring for others enhances our health!

## **Humanness**

**IN PRISON:** Incarcerated people may be referred to as "offender", inmate, or by their last name or ID number.

**OUT OF PRISON:** We can insist upon being treated with respect.

## **Physical Contact**

**IN PRISON:** Affectionate touch is brief and has been limited to family and close friends when they visit. Since COVID began, many visits have been replaced with teleconferencing.

**OUT OF PRISON:** Handshakes, hugs, back-patting, and other signs of affection are welcome and encouraged among relatives, friends, teammates and colleagues.

## **Information**

**IN PRISON:** Incarcerated people can access a limited amount of information through magazines, newspapers, television, radio, and letters. But a person can think, weigh options, and philosophize with others, and without a gizmo buzzing at them constantly.

**OUT OF PRISON:** We are overloaded with information, misinformation and disinformation, with very few tools to differentiate one from another and very little desire to hear things from outside of our bubble. Online, we have limitless reinforcements for our beliefs.

## **Patience**

**IN PRISON:** Incarcerated people must ask for - and wait for - assistance, services, and professional help including doctor visits, rides to see specialists, meetings with administrators, phone calls, and daily meals.

**OUT OF PRISON:** We are impatient. We want 'urgent care' and we can get medical help immediately, if necessary. We arrange meetings according to our schedule and we can spontaneously do things.

## **Consider these similarities, too!**

- In prison, people continue to love children, partners, parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, other relatives, friends, colleagues, clergy, advocates, etc.
- We all appreciate humor and many of us support our favorite sports people / teams
- We all feel sad, scared, excited, angry, caring, anxious, blue and vulnerable at times.
- We are all concerned about safety, security, and the future.
- We all need - and deserve - feelings of self-worth, agency, dignity and belonging.

## Motivation Tips

From the Fair Shake Ownership Manual:

**Self Motivation** - While managers often try to find ways to motivate people from the outside, the best way to get things done is simply by wanting to do them. The more we align ourselves with our goals, values and interests, the more easily we can find the necessary motivation to carry out our tasks. Sometimes we have to keep our 'eyes on the prize' and work through things we really don't like – and sometimes we have to wait patiently - to get to the ultimate goal that we value the most.

"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right." - Henry Ford

"He is able who thinks he is able." – The Buddha

Often people use - and many people want - **EXTRINSIC MOTIVATORS** (outside forces) to get us to do things we don't desire to do. Do we want to be lured by a Carrot? Do we prefer to be scared by a Stick? Bribe... or... threat? Encourage you to buy a gizmo with a coupon or make you worry that you will not be hip if you don't have the gizmo? Do you recognize these *extrinsic motivators*? You will find more examples of extrinsic motivators all around you once you start to take notice. Alas, extrinsic motivators work well to get us to do some things, but not everything.

We cannot always be pulled or pushed. Sometimes we just want to be interested in what we're doing!

The forces that can energize us through our most challenging and creative tasks are often our **INTRINSIC MOTIVATORS** (inside forces) that bring satisfaction when we do tasks we don't care for but can find meaning in. For example, hanging laundry may be your least favorite thing to do, but you need clean clothes. This mundane task can transform to something beautiful when it happens on a warm, sunny day in the early spring. Just knowing that a beautiful day of hanging laundry is possible makes it easier to hang laundry on less desirable days. Intrinsic motivators make the tough stuff tolerable and can even connect us to the rest of the people on the planet who are going through tough stuff. And also to the people who are enjoying the spring sun while hanging out their laundry.

When we have an inner goal, a desire to solve a puzzle, the wish to work out something by ourselves, we are often motivated with speed, stamina, determination and creativity! Often our values and beliefs provide the fuel for our intrinsic motivation motors.

### Motivation Tips:

1. **Systematically and deliberately create success.** Decide what you want to do and what you will do when you get there. Now explore the steps you need to take to get you to where you want to be. Remember to anticipate the hurdles!

2. **Don't let your excuses get in the way.** You will come up with every excuse in the book to not move forward. You will even believe many of your excuses are legitimate. When you believe your excuses you can become stuck. Are you a victim or are you a creative thinker who can solve a problem?

3. **Change habits and behaviors that lead you to procrastinate.** Are you doing things that are holding you back? Schedule time to do nothing and other than that time, stay on track with your goals.
4. **Several small jobs done over short periods of time are more manageable than one large task.** Instead of focusing on the difficulty of the large task, break it into smaller jobs and create a timeline for finishing them.
5. **Try tackling the more undesirable tasks early** so that you can pursue more pleasant activities later in the day.
6. **Exercise self-discipline.** Say 'no' when you need to...to yourself and to others. Keep your "eyes on the prize!"
7. **Overcome procrastination and block out human and media obstacles.** Sometimes we have to just get started, even when we don't feel like we're ready, or even up for the task. Often just the ACT of getting started is enough to get engaged and encouraged. Refuse to let others divert you from your path! Procrastination is a self-defeating behavior that develops - in part - due to the fear of failure and paradoxically, the fear of success!
8. **Reward yourself.** Your self-motivation will increase enormously if you give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done. It feels great to accomplish tasks!
9. **Have fun!** Learning to enjoy yourself keeps you enthusiastic and motivated and helps you keep stress to a minimum. After all, good vibes create more good vibes!
10. **Imagine what the rewards will be when you finally reach your destination** and keep that thought foremost in your mind. You can also imagine the bad consequences (pain, frustration, the feeling of defeat) that may occur if you don't, if you prefer to look at it that way. Carrot or stick?
11. **Tell someone about your goals.** Show them or mark stages on a calendar to emphasize and visualize your goal. Check in with them periodically to tell them of your progress.
12. **Review your habits; do you see yourself accomplishing your goals?** You must change the habits that lead you to procrastinate in the first place. Lose, shorten or refuse to participate in demotivating habits during inappropriate times of the day (watching TV, disengaging from your goals) and replace them with habits that lead to engaging in and control of your life.
13. **Find your true interest.** If you dislike certain tasks, just look at them in the big picture...they are character building steps on the path of getting you to your greater goal.
14. **Make lists of the smaller jobs then tick off the work that you have completed.** Prepare a list of the things you have to do. Prioritize the list and then start ticking off tasks as they are completed. If you do this right, you may become motivated to complete them all!

**Citizenship - Birth Certificate**

Get a copy of your birth certificate, and Other Vital Records

<http://vitalrecords.nc.gov/>

**Employment - Employment Services**

313 Chapanoke Road  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4316  
919-329-5230  
919-329-5585 fax

**Employment - Employment Services**

855-629-6757

NCWorks Online is a one-stop online resource for job seekers and employers in North Carolina. Job seekers can search for jobs, create resumes, and find education and training. Employers can find candidates, post jobs, and search labor market information.

<https://www.ncworks.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx>

**Free - Free Phone**

Assurance Wireless  
P.O. Box 5040  
Charleston, IL 61920-9907  
1-888-321-5880

Assurance Wireless provides eligible consumers with free monthly data, unlimited texting, free monthly minutes plus a free Smartphone. Lifeline enrollment is available to individuals who qualify based on federal or state-specific eligibility criteria. Residents of homeless shelters, nursing homes and temporary addresses may also be eligible.  
<https://www.assurancewireless.com/lifeline-service/s/what-lifeline>

**Reentry Resource - Multiple Resources Available**

Our findhelp technology powers Americas leading social care network. Our network features more than 300,000 free and reduced-cost programs in all 50 U.S. states, territories, and Puerto Rico, powering social care systems for hundreds of customers nationwide.

[https://www.findhelp.org/find-social-services/north-carolina?ref=ab\\_redirect](https://www.findhelp.org/find-social-services/north-carolina?ref=ab_redirect)

**Shelter - Transitional Housing**

Summit House a residential alternative to prison program for mothers convicted of a nonviolent crime and their minor children, is a nonprofit that serves all 100 North Carolina counties and saves state tax payers over \$1million net annually. With locations in the Triangle\*, Piedmont, and Charlotte, Summit House empowers convicted mothers to break the generational cycle of poverty, violence, and substance abuse that is their history, and to create a new life for themselves and their children. Summit House strives to keep families together by maximizing healthy bonding between mothers and children. The organization is committed to working with women who have the desire and dedication to change their lives through counseling, life and job skills training, and substance abuse counseling, rather than sit out a prison sentence  
PO Box 27284, Raleigh, NC 27611  
919.329.9214

**Citizenship - Department of Motor Vehicles**

<http://www.ncdot.gov/>

**Employment - Employment Services**

NCWorks Online is a one-stop online resource for job seekers and employers in North Carolina. Job seekers can search for jobs, create resumes, and find education and training. Employers can find candidates, post jobs, and search labor market information.

<https://www.ncworks.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx>

**Employment - Workforce Development**

Capital Areas Workforce Center System brings together an array of services in one convenient location to help individuals find employment and provide access to education and training. If you are an individual seeking employment and/or training Capital Area Workforce Centers can help you by providing:

Career Assessment and Counseling

Job Search Services

On-site and Virtual Workshops

Training and Education Information

Computer, Internet, Phone, Fax and Copier Access

Career Fairs and Hiring Event Information

Community Resource and Partner Program

Referrals

NCWorks Online

Access some of Capital Areas Workforce Center

System services online by visiting NCWorks.

Capital Area Workforce Development Board

The Parkview Building

2321 Crabtree Boulevard

Suite 200

Raleigh, NC 27604

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 550

Raleigh, NC 27602

Phone: (919) 856-6040

Fax: (919) 856-6038

<http://www.capitalareawdb.com/individuals/>

**Reentry Resource - Multiple Resources Available**

Search for benefits in Education, Grants, Loans, Social Security, Housing and Utilities, Employment and Career Development, Financial Assistance and more.

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories>

**Reentry Resource - Multiple Resources Available**

211 connects you with thousands of nonprofit and government services in your area. If you want personal assistance call the three-digit number 211 or 877-947-2211. A friendly voice to talk with you 24/7/365.

<https://nc211.org/>

**Transportation - Donated Cars**

Wheels 4 Hope provides free and low-cost cars to qualifying individuals who are seeking a car to travel with children or to get to a job.

929 S. Saunders Street

Raleigh, NC 27603

(919) 832-1941

<http://wheels4hope.org/>

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<http://www.summithouse.org/>



## **Employment Tips**

We often have to work our way up to the job we want; either because it is not available when we go to find it or we need more experience, education, preparation or time to get ready. Although we will spend time working at jobs that are not our preference, we can enjoy the interim more when we stay focused on our goals.

### **Start by asking yourself:**

- What kind of job or career do I want?
- What am I willing to do, learn or sacrifice to get that job or career?

Before venturing out into the world of work you will have to obtain necessary documents.

The most frequently requested documents are:

- Birth Certificate
- Driver's license or Basic Identification
- Social Security Card

The birth certificate and driver's license forms offered in our Employment Documents are samples. You can find links to the applications that you need in our Resource Directory!

### **Next, ask yourself the following questions**

- What occupations or industries in your area are in need of employees?
- What are your employment limitations due to your particular crime?
- What is the income you need in order to pay for housing, food, energy, phone, child support, restitution, transportation, etc? (check out our [Build a Budget Worksheet](#))
- Which strategies do you think would be most effective for "selling" your attributes?

### **To prepare to apply for a job you may want to create the following worksheets:**

- Inventory your work history in and out of prison
- List your training, skills, limitations, and health considerations
- Gather all the information you will need to fill out employment applications. Are you ready to fill them out online? (Several companies only accept online applications.)

### **Considerations and Preparation**

What are your employment resources?

- Classified ads (in the paper or locally found on-line)
- Applying for jobs with companies you want to work for
- Job Assistance and Job Training centers
- Craigslist, Monster.com, other job-search websites

### **Skills Assessment and Personal Strengths Evaluation**

Consider taking a free online self-assessment test help us see what careers we are suited for. If you type the phrase 'self-assessment test' into any search engine, several options will be available for you to check out.

### **Do you need clothes for your interview or new job?**

Check out Dress for Success, a global program that may have a location near you!

([www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org))

**Resume' and Interview tips:**

Two good places where you get the chance to show a company why they cannot afford NOT to hire you. Keep these tips in mind as you write your application or resume', and prepare for job interviews:

- Be cheerful in your in-person or telephone job interviews.
- Talk about the benefits of your experience and the relevant expertise you offer.
- Speak about the value you would bring to the company.
- Share stories in the job interview about success in prior assignments.
- Talk about your ability to work with a diverse group of people.

**Typical Barriers to Employment:**

- Lack of updated resume
- Appropriate clothing for job search
- Transportation
- Stable housing
- Substance abuse
- Poor interview skills
- Poor job search skills
- Not a high school graduate
- No documentation (ID, Social Security card)

**SMART: What is your strategy for overcoming barriers and creating success?**

You can create a clear strategy by following SMART guidelines:

*Specific Measurable Attainable Realistic Timely (or Tangible)*

**Specific** – what is the specific goal you wish to achieve?

Can you answer these questions?

- Who do you need to be involved?
- What do you really want to accomplish?
- When do you want to accomplish it?
- Where do you need to be to accomplish it?
- Why do you want to achieve this goal?
- Which things do you need to get in order and which are the constraints to achieving your goal?

**Measurable** – How will you know when you've achieved your goal? What criteria have you set up to measure your progress and reach your target dates?

**Attainable** – Can you see yourself achieving this goal? Can you see the path to get there and then see yourself in that place of having reached the goal?

**Realistic** – Are you willing and able to achieve the goal?

**Timely** – How long do you need to achieve your goal? Work out your goal date and then the smaller goals that must be met to meet that goal date?

**Tangible** – Imagine: can you taste, touch, smell, see or hear the results of achieving your goal?

COMPANY OR  
EMPLOYER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION APPLIED FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

# Employment Application

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU LEGALLY ELIGIBLE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE U.S.A.?

☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, verification will be required.)

I AM SEEKING A PERMANENT POSITION: ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF NECESSARY FOR THE JOB I AM ABLE TO:

Are you able to perform the essential functions  
of the position with or without accommodations?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Work (which shifts)? \_\_\_\_\_

Work overtime? \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a valid Alaska Drivers License? \_\_\_\_\_

IF NECESSARY FOR THE JOB, ARE YOU OVER (Please mark one) 14\_\_ 15\_\_ 16\_\_ 18\_\_ 19\_\_ 21\_\_

I WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO WORK \_\_\_\_ DAYS AFTER BEING NOTIFIED THAT I AM HIRED.

EDUCATION:	Yrs. Completed	Field of Study	Graduate or Degree
High School _____			
College/University _____			
Business/Technical _____			
Other (May include grammar school) _____			

MILITARY SERVICE: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Duty/Specialized Training: \_\_\_\_\_

REFERENCES: List two personal references who are not relatives or former supervisors.

Name	Address	Telephone	Occupation	Years known
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Address	Telephone	Occupation	Years known
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYMENT: List last employment first. Include summer or temporary jobs. Be sure all your experience or employers related to this job are listed here, in the summary (following this section), or use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.

Employer Name and Address	Position Title/Duties Skills	Dates Employed from to
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____	Supervisor's Name: Telephone:	Reason for leaving

Employer Name and Address	Position Title/Duties Skills	Dates Employed from to
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____	Supervisor's Name: Telephone:	Reason for leaving

## EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED...

Employer Name and Address	Position Title/Duties Skills	Dates Employed from                      to
		Reason for leaving
	Supervisor's Name:                      Telephone:	

Employer Name and Address	Position Title/Duties Skills	Dates Employed from                      to
		Reason for leaving
	Supervisor's Name:                      Telephone:	

Summarize other  
employment related to this job: \_\_\_\_\_

Types of computers, other electronic or mechanical  
equipment that you are qualified to operate or repair: \_\_\_\_\_

Typing speed: \_\_\_\_\_ per minute.

Professional Licenses, Certifications or Registrations: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional skills including supervision skills, other languages, or information  
regarding the career/occupation you wish to bring to the employer's attention: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of accident or illness please contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information to the applicant:** As part of our procedure for processing your employment application, your personal and employment references may be checked. If you have misrepresented or omitted any facts on this application, and are subsequently hired, you may be discharged from your job. You may make a written request for information derived from the checking of your references.

If necessary for employment, you may be required to: supply your birth certificate or other proof of authorization to work in the US, have a physical examination and/or a drug test, or to sign a conflict of interest agreement and abide by its terms.

I understand and agree to the information shown above:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Equal Employment Opportunity:** While many employers are required by federal law to have an Affirmative Action Program, all employers are required to provide equal employment opportunity and may ask your national origin, race and sex for planning and reporting purposes only. This information is optional and failure to provide it will have no affect on your application for employment.

Employer Section: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Sample Interview Questions**

The interview is your chance to show an employer your unique qualities and it is also the time you can ask more about the employer, the company culture and the job you are applying for. Before you interview be sure to find out all you can about the company so you understand who they are, and also so the interviewer knows you care.

Interviews can be stressful; the best way to manage that stress is to be prepared. If you are ready to answer the questions below you will be prepared for most of the questions that might come up.

There are many variables that make finding a job even more complicated if you have a criminal record. How much should you disclose and when should you disclose it? How do you explain your criminal record and still land a job? How do you address it during an interview? We explore these questions and more at the end of this document.

### **Possible Interview Questions: About the Job and the Company**

- Why did you apply for this job?
- What experience, skills and characteristics do you possess to do the job?
- Why do you think you are the best person for this job?
- Why should we hire you?
- What have you learned about our company?
- How do you see your role in joining this or any company?
- Describe good customer service.
- Describe handling a challenge with a co-worker
- Are you willing to travel?
- Do you have any limitations that would inhibit you from doing this job?
- How long do you think you would like to be employed by this company?

### **Possible Interview Questions: About You**

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are you passionate about?
- What is your greatest strength? What is your greatest weakness?
- What do you do when you're angry?
- If you know your supervisor is wrong about something, how would you handle it?
- Describe a difficult work situation and how you dealt with it.
- Describe your work style.
- How would you describe the pace at which you work?
- How do you handle stress and pressure?
- Tell me about how you worked effectively under pressure.
- What motivates you? Are you self-motivated?
- What are your salary expectations? (if it is not listed with the job posting)
- What types of decisions are difficult for you? What types are easy?
- If you could relive the last 10 years of your life, what would you do differently?
- If the people who know you were asked why you should be hired, what would they say?
- Do you prefer to work independently or with others?
- Tell me about your ideal work environment.
- How do you evaluate success?
- What are your career goals? How do you plan to achieve these goals?
- Give an example of a goal you reached and tell me how you achieved it.
- Give an example of a goal you didn't meet and how you handled it.
- Give an example of how you set goals and achieve them.
- How do you handle a challenge?

**Possible Interview Questions: Your Work History**

- Tell me about \_\_\_\_ company listed on your resume.
- What were your duties, responsibilities, expectations...for the position and as an employee?
- What challenges did you face? How did you handle them?
- What did you like about this job? What did you dislike about this job?
- What was your biggest accomplishment at this job? At any job?
- What were your favorite and least favorite aspects about the people you worked with, including supervisors?
- What attributes to you like to see in a supervisor?
- What do you expect from a supervisor?
- Tell me a little about your favorite and least favorite supervisor.
- Why did you leave this job? (why did you quit or why were you fired?)
- Have you been in a position when you did not have enough work to do? What did you do with your time?
- Have you made a mistake? How did you handle it?
- Have you ever dealt with company policy you weren't in agreement with? How?
- Have you gone above and beyond the call of duty? If so, how?
- When you worked on multiple projects how did you prioritize?
- How did you handle meeting a tight deadline?
- What do you do when your schedule is interrupted? Give an example of how you handle it.
- Tell me about a difficult situation with a co-worker? How did you handle it?
- Tell me about your experience working with a team.
- Have you motivated employees or co-workers? Tell me about it.
- Give me an example of when you did and when you didn't listen.
- Have you handled a difficult situation with a co-worker? How?
- Have you handled a difficult situation with a supervisor? How?
- Have you handled a difficult situation with another department? How?
- Have you handled a difficult situation with a client or vendor? How?

**Possible Interview Questions: Incarceration**

- Why were you incarcerated?
- What did you learn from that experience?
- Do you have challenges or limitations that could affect your work schedule?
- What have you been doing to prepare for employment since you came home?
- Were you employed or in school when you were incarcerated? If so, tell me about your work. Tell me about your education.

**Illegal questions:**

- What is your age?
- How many children do you have? Are you pregnant?
- How much do you weigh? How tall are you?
- Do you live with anyone? Who?
- Are you married or in a relationship?

**Legal alternatives:**

- Are you over 18 years old?
- Can you lift 60 pounds?
- Is there anything that might interfere with your work schedule?



## Related to Your Criminal Record

An employer may not ask questions about a previous arrest or conviction. They may ask if you have been convicted of specific crimes if they are relevant to the position being applied for. An employer may not refuse employment to someone just because they have a criminal record.

Lisa Pollan, site coordinator at LIFT-DC, says they encourage formerly incarcerated clients to collect "evidence of rehabilitation." This evidence should prove to employers that the client has changed since their offense and is now a responsible member of society. Evidence of rehabilitation can include:

- letters of recommendation from employers or advocates
- proof of training program completion/certificates (including during incarceration)
- participation in a mentoring or support group

For Job Applications, LIFT-DC counsels clients to do the following:

- **Only answer what is asked:** If a question asks if you have been convicted of a felony, you can say no if you only have misdemeanors. If a question asks if you have been convicted of a felony in the last seven years, and you were convicted 10 years ago, answer no.
- **Answer truthfully:** A company may hire ex-offenders but have a policy of terminating anyone who lies on an application.
- **Demonstrate change:** If you answer a question about your record by writing, "Yes, but I got my GED while I was incarcerated," you show that you are educated, focused and want to make positive changes in your life. You can also attach a written explanation of your situation, and proof of your rehabilitation.

Check out LIFT-DC for more tips on interviewing! <http://www.liftcommunities.org/>

## From the National Reentry Resource Center:

<http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/faqs/employment-and-education#Q8>

## How should job-seekers respond to questions regarding past convictions?

- Acknowledge the previous mistakes in a concise and businesslike way
- mention any relevant skills or interests developed while in prison or prior to entering prison
- reinforce a commitment and an interest in the new job, by stating, for example, "I'm more mature now and my top priority is to work at [company] to use my abilities, focus on the work, and make a fresh start."

Applicants should be familiar with their criminal history to answer accurately specific questions on job applications and in interviews.

## Race/Religion

An employer may not ask you about your religion but it may come up if they ask you what days/times you are available. An employer may not judge you for being a part of any race or religion but may decide not to hire you if you are unavailable for any crucial time for the position you are applying.