



PRISONER REENTRY NETWORK

AVAILABLE REENTRY RESOURCES

Identification: When individuals leave prison, they may have only prison-issued identification. While this serves as state-issued identification and will get access to a bus or train, it won't get you a social security card or driver's license. This document outlines the steps required for obtaining legal identification in preparation for release, a process that can be begin any time following arrest. All necessary application forms are included: [Click here](#) to download this guide.

Directions Home: PRN produces [guides for getting from CA's prisons to its major cities using public transportation](#).

Post-Release Cell Phones: After you leave prison, you can get a low-cost cell phone subsidized by the federal government. [Click here](#) to download this guide.

Banking: When individuals leave prison, they are provided \$200 and little else. This guide is intended to teach people to open a bank account, establish a line of credit, and use these essential economic tools. [Click here](#) to download this guide.

Resources for Transgender Prisoners: PRN contacted advocacy organizations and developed a list of [Resources for Transgender People](#).

Social Security Offices: PRN has compiled the addresses of [all known social security offices in California](#).

Resume: A resume is essential for getting a job. Even now, when most job applications are online, it is useful for a job seeker to have their work and educational history compiled into one document. This guide will help people assemble a resume to provide to prospective employers.

Writing Cover Letters: A cover letter is an individual's first contact with prospective employers. Even now, when most job applications are online, cover letters are important networking tools. This guide will help people write a cover letter to provide to prospective employers.

CDCR Community Resource Directory: A list of reentry resource providers in each county, and their addresses. The most comprehensive list of resources available in each of California's counties. Available online [here](#), through a prisoner's Correctional Counselor, or upon request to PRN.

Getting Out and Staying Out: The best guide for individuals anticipating release from prison, Getting Out and Staying Out was initially created by the [San Francisco Reentry Council](#) and much of its information is specific to San Francisco County. However, PRN distributes this easy-to-use guide to individuals anticipating release to any California county because Getting Out and Staying Out provides such great general information on identification, public benefits, probation and parole, and the array of issues facing an individual anticipating release from prison. Available online [here](#), the guide will be distributed free to prisoners who request a copy by writing to this address:

*Reentry Council of the City & County of San Francisco
Adult Probation Department
880 Bryant Street, Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94103*

Life Support Alliance – California Lifer Newsletter: [Life Support Alliance](#) (LSA) is an advocacy group that monitors all aspects of the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH). They observe parole hearings, correspond with prisoners, report their findings, and serve as a repository of information to advocacy organizations and government officials interested in our prisons. They also produce the California Lifer Newsletter (CLN), which is the best legal and political information available for prisoners, particularly lifers. To subscribe to CLN send \$30 (for prisoners) or \$99 (for free people) to:

*California Lifer Newsletter
PO Box 277
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741*

LSA also provides information in writing, and takes calls from prisoners: 916.402.3750

Bridges to Freedom: For individuals anticipating a hearing before the Parole Board, Bridges to Freedom guides an individual through every step of the parole hearing process. Developed single-handedly by PRN Advisory Board Member James DeBacco, an individual currently incarcerated in Ironwood State Prison, this guide is an intellectual tour de force, and represents the staggering talent that is trapped behind prison walls. Available at [Bridges to Freedom's website](#), or you can have a copy sent directly to someone inside through [this link](#).

Prison Law Office: Prison Law Office has developed guides on immigration, habeus corpus, prison conditions, and a number of other issues. Most notably, they have a parolee rights manual in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Their website is [here](#), or you can write them at:

*Prison Law Office
General Delivery
San Quentin, CA 94964*

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children: LSPC has developed information for incarcerated individuals, including information specific to [incarcerated parents, pregnancy](#), and a [host of other issues](#). Write them at:

*Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
1540 Market St., Suite 490
San Francisco, CA 94102*

Prison Activist Resource Center – Prisoner Resource Directory: Up-to-date listing of resource providers on a wide variety of topics. Available online [here](#), or by writing P.A.R.C. at this address:

Prison Activist Resource Center

PO Box 70447

Oakland, CA, 94612

Guidebook for Incarcerated California Veterans: This is another comprehensive guide on reentry resources, and not all resources in this guide are available only to veterans. Pages 50-100 detail reentry resources for each county. Available online [here](#), or through written request to PRN.

Root and Rebound’s Roadmap to Reentry: An exhaustive resource detailing legal information affecting individuals who have left prison. Available online [here](#), or distributed free to prisoners who request a copy at this address:

Root & Rebound

1730 Franklin Street, Suite 300

Oakland, CA 94612

Update: R&R’s guide is available again in April 2016, and will only be available free to individuals within four years from release.

Printable County-Specific Reentry Resources: Reentry happens on the community level, and each community understands its own needs and resources. These guides provide reentry-related information specific to certain counties, and can be quickly printed and distributed:

Alameda County – Partial Listing of Reentry Resources: List of reentry-related resources in Alameda County, 2015 resource available [here](#).

Contra Costa County – Reentry Resource Guide: Two-page list of reentry-related resources available in Contra Costa county – 2013 edition available [here](#).

Los Angeles – Reentry LA: Exhaustive guide to reentry-related resources available in Los Angeles – 2010 edition available [here](#).

San Francisco County: Getting Out and Staying Out, discussed above, is available [here](#).

Solano County – Reentry Toolkit: Exhaustive guide of reentry-related resources available in Solano County – 2010 edition available [here](#).

Reentry Housing Guides: Transitional housing is the most important part of reentry, and California has a gaping shortage that leaves many prisoners without a place to live.

Life Support Alliance List: List of transitional housing options compiled by PRN partner group Life Support Alliance, available [here](#).

LA Transitional Housing: List of transitional housing options in Los Angeles, available [here](#).

ReentryHousing.org: Online resource – there is no internet access in prison – listing housing resources in the Bay Area. Available [here](#).

Criminal Record Information: In California it is difficult to remove a felony from your criminal record. However, having a copy of your criminal record may be valuable both inside and out.

Reading and Understanding RAP Sheets: This guide explains how to understand your RAP sheet, and correct errors, available [here](#).

Sacramento County Public Law Library: Cleaning Up Your Criminal Record: Guide to clearing up your criminal record, with corresponding forms, available [here](#).

Clearing Your Adult Criminal Record in California: This step-by-step guide explains how to clean up your RAP sheet, available, [here](#).

Social Security Information: Brief overview by the Social Security Agency entitled, “What Prisoners Need to Know,” available [here](#).

Education Information: John Jay College's [guide to continuing your education after incarceration](#).

Computer Information: There is no internet in prison, and people incarcerated for long terms will come out to our wired world. These guides to [internet basics](#) and [how to set up and use Gmail](#) will help individuals reconnect when outside.

Immigration Information: Many prisoners will face deportation when they are released, and will be taken to a detention center, and then to their country of origin. The [Immigrant Legal Resource Center's Toolkit](#) and the Prison Law Office's guide, in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#), will provide information on immigration.

Parole Violation Flowchart: A diagram outlining the parole violation process, which has changed since Realignment in 2011. Developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, this chart demonstrates the process, actors, and relevant criminal code, available [here](#).

Matlock Parole Prospectus: Michael Matlock, an individual who participated in our [Lifer Interview series](#), brought [this packet](#) to his parole board hearing. The parole board begins evaluating someone's reentry plans at the psychological risk assessment six months prior to the hearing, so prepare yourself early. Mr. Matlock's reentry did not go exactly according to plan, but he's still free and doing well.

Tattoo Removal: When someone is released, they may want to shed their prior affiliations and identities. Tattoo removal, explained [here](#), is a wonderful way to do just that.

Miscellaneous:

Yoga Stretches: Even under 24-hour lock-down, an individual must exercise. Yoga is a wonderful way to exercise in prison, and organizations like the [Prison Yoga Project](#) are not available in every prison.

These diagrams are incredibly popular when PRN goes inside: [Sun Salutations 1](#), [Sun Salutations 2](#).

Star Charts: When an individual leaves a level four facility, they are permitted to see the [stars](#) for the first time since being incarcerated.