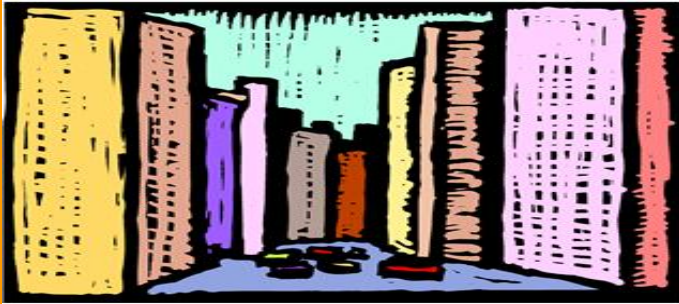


# The Camden County Smart Book



## A Resource Guide for Going Home

*“Your Head Start for a Fresh Start”*

**2011**

Prepared for:  
The New Jersey Department of Corrections

Updated By  
The New Jersey Department of Corrections  
Office of Transitional Services

## Quick Reference: Useful Numbers and Hotlines

<b>American Friends Service Committee Prisoner's Resource Center</b>	1-973-643-2205
<b>CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines</b>	
Spanish:	1-800-344-7432
English:	1-800-227-8922
<b>Addictions Hotline of NJ</b>	1-800-238-2333
<b>Alcoholics Anonymous</b>	1-800-245-1377
<b>Division of Disability Services (DDS)</b>	1-888-285-3036
<b>Division of Youth &amp; Family Services</b>	1-800-792-8610
<b>Hyacinth AIDS Foundation</b>	1-800-433-0254
<b>Legal Services of New Jersey</b>	1-888-576-5529
<b>NJ Motor Vehicle Commission</b>	
Driver's License Suspension Hotline	1-609-292-7500
Main Information	1-888-486-3339
<b>Narcotics Anonymous of NJ</b>	1-800-992-0401
<b>National Suicide Crisis Hotline</b>	1-800-784-2433
<b>New Jersey AIDS STD Hotline (Beth Israel)</b>	1-800-624-2377
<b>2-1-1 First Call For Help</b>	2-1-1/ Se habla español or toll free
<b>Camden County One Stop</b>	1-877-995-2600
<b>Social Security Office</b>	1-800-772-1213
<b>Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (Woman's Space, Inc.)</b>	
Bilingual and TTY accessible	1-800-572-7233

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Revision completed 2011 by:  
Christy La Sala  
Office of Transitional Services

## The Start of a New Beginning:

### How to use this book

This book is intended to prepare you for your arrival home and reintegration back into society. In order to make the transition smoother for you a list of resources have been compiled along with a list of necessary items you will find that are essential to your success. This book focuses on the first few weeks and months of your arrival home and assisting you on managing the transition. Although not every resource available to you will be found in here, there are many that will help to guide your journey.

**Unless a fee or charge is listed, all of the services and resources listed here are free.**

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:** 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 Camden County in this book, but, again, there will be many to help you begin. Also, the organizations that are listed may be able to offer additional resources to you. For current information as services change procedure and or cost please visit [www.njsuccess.org](http://www.njsuccess.org).

**GETTING FREE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET**

All of the public libraries listed on page 40 should be able to provide you with free internet access

## Getting Started:

### Identification (I.D.) and Other Documents

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

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



#### A. Social Security Card

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

**Camden County Social Security Office**  
**5 Executive Campus**  
**Suite 100 Corner of King and Cornell Ave**  
**Cherry Hill NJ 08002**  
**Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00**  
**National Toll Free Phone Number 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 ([www.ssa.gov/replace\\_sscard.html](http://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 Camden County, you may be able to apply for a birth certificate for a lesser fee.

**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.

If you were born in the following towns you may go to your registrar's office and apply for a birth certificate at the cost listed below.

**Berlin Borough**

Municipal Building  
59 S. White Horse Pike  
Berlin, NJ 08031  
856-767-7777 x110

**Camden City Hall Vital Statistics**

520 Market Street Room 103  
Camden NJ  
Hours Monday-Friday 8:30-4:15  
856-757-7085  
**Fee: \$10**

**Cherry Hill Township**

820 Mercer Street Room 107  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002  
Hours Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00  
856-488-7892  
**Fee: \$12**

**Stratford Borough**

Borough Hall  
307 Union Avenue  
Stratford, NJ 08084  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 for processing.  
856-783-0600  
**Fee: \$20 Cash**

**Voorhees Township**

620 Berlin Road  
Voorhees, NJ 08043  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-12:00 and 2:00-4:00  
856-429-4482  
**Fee: \$25 Cash**

**C. County I.D.**

You can obtain a county identification card by going to the Camden County Clerk's Office in Camden City Hall, Room 102 at 520 Market St. in Camden, or by visiting any of the County Stores. The County Store in Cherry Hill is located in the Cherry Hill Mall, store # 1025, 856-661-3160; the County

Store in Voorhees is located in the Echelon Mall, store # 2015, 1-856-566-2920. The **fee is \$5**; Service Center at Winslow, 35 Coopers Folly Rd in Atco 1-856-753-6210 **fee is \$5** for initial or renewal and **\$20 for lost or stolen ID**. You must show proof of residence in Camden County (so you can only do this after you are released), proof of age, and provide a social security number. You must bring your birth certificate with you and a recent piece of mail with your address on it. If you are married you must bring your marriage license.



#### **D. Drivers 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 Camden County (see 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](http://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 Camden 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](http://WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MVC). You can pay your surcharges and parking tickets on this website as well.

**MVC LOCATIONS IN AND AROUND CAMDEN COUNTY**

**For questions, Please call 1 (888) 486-3339.**

**Camden:** 2600 Mt. Ephraim Ave.

Mon- Fri 8:00 am - 4:30 pm; Sat 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Cherry Hill:** Executive Campus, suite 110 Building 1

Mon- Fri 8:00 am - 4:30 pm; Sat 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Runnemede:** 835 E Clements Bridge Rd.

Mon- Fri 8:00 am - 4:30 pm; Sat 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Regional Office: Trenton Agency**

**120 S. Stockton & Front St.**

**Trenton, NJ 08611**

Services: Driver conferences, driver records, (issuances and inquiries), points and surcharge (inquiries), suspensions and restorations.

Hours: Mon- Fri 8am-4:30pm; Sat 8am-12pm

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**

**4 POINT DOCUMENTS**

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

**3 POINT DOCUMENTS**

- 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 POINT DOCUMENTS**

- U.S. Military Discharge Papers (DD214)

## **1 POINT DOCUMENTS**

- 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](http://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 a state photo identification card for non-drivers. **You can get this official state I.D. even if your driver’s license is currently suspended.** This may be a good option for you if it is going to be some time before you get your license back. You will still need to bring the same type of identification documents described previously, under the new “Six Point” system.

### **F. Certificates of Naturalization or Citizenship**

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

### **Citizenship Locations**

#### **US Citizenship & Immigration Service**

530 Fellowship Rd.  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  
856-439-5799

## **US Citizenship & Immigration Service**

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

### **Application Support Center**

285-299 Broad Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201.

### **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) to fill out an I-90 form. Please make sure that you bring I. D. with you. You can also visit the website and download the forms at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). It costs **\$450.00** 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 VA liaison from the Veterans administration. The VA liaison can assist you in requesting a copy of your DD214 (discharge papers). Please notify your social worker of your veteran status.

You can also request a copy of your records using the SF-180 form. This official form can be obtained by writing the Veteran Benefit Administration in New Jersey or the NPRC, which is the main records depository.

### **Veterans Benefit Administration in New Jersey**

**20 Washington Pl., 3rd Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102**

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

Upon your release, you can also call the local office at 1-800-827-1000, or you can go to the website [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov) to request your records. The website will instruct you to print a signature page. This can

either be mailed or faxed to the Veterans Benefit Administration. Upon the receipt of your form, the Veterans Benefit Administration will mail your records directly to you. website [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov) and 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 item to have at this point, since it is a widely accepted, it can more easily serve as a form of I.D. for you. A passport will cost you money. To obtain one after you are released, please visit:

**Camden County Clerk's Office,  
520 Market St. Room 102 Camden  
856-885-5300**

**Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00-9:00 Saturday  
10:00-5:30**

**Cherry Hill Mall County Store  
856-661-3160**

**Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00-9:00 Saturday  
10:00-5:30**

**Echelon Mall Store # 2015  
856-566-2920**

**Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00-9:00 Saturday  
10:00-5:30**

**Winslow Center  
856-753-6210**

**Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00-5:00**

### **You will need to bring:**

- ✓ An original or certified copy of a birth certificate with a raised seal and file date issued by Vital Statistics
- ✓ A naturalization certificate
- ✓ A previous US passport; photocopies aren't accepted.
- ✓ Your social security number
- ✓ I.D., such as a valid driver's license, government identification or previous passport issued after your 16th birthday. The expired passport should not be more than 15 years old.

- ✓ 2 identical copies of a 2X2 face front regulation passport photo.

The cost for a passport for 16 and older is **\$110.00**. A passport will be valid for 10 years.



### **J. High School Diploma/GED Certificate/High School Equivalency Degree (HSED)/Vocational School Certificates**

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

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

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

Please call 609-777-1050 for further assistance.

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

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

## **K. Prison Release Papers**

Make sure you keep your prison release papers. These papers can serve as identification in some circumstances.

## **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 options in Camden County that you can utilize upon release.

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

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

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

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

See the following pages for list of resources.

## **A. First Stops**

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

### **FIRST-STOP AGENCIES**

#### **2-1-1/First Call for Help**

Dial 211

1-800-331-7272 (Homeless Hotline)

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am- 4:30pm

Emergencies and homeless calls are 24 hours/7 days a week.

2-1-1 provides 24 hour comprehensive human service information and referral for residents of Camden County. 211 can help you access information as well as connect you to resources that are available to you in the community. 2-1-1 is equipped for TTY callers and has a language line that provides translation services for 140 different languages.

### **Prison Fellowship**

PO Box 10613

Pittsburgh, PA 15235-0613 (This is the main address for the program. Prisoners can write letters to this address if they cannot call).

1-800-861-0498

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Offers an aftercare reentry program for former prisoners that are trying to get reintegrated back into society. The program provides mentors, church homes, information and referral for housing, clothing, obtaining identification and other resources in the community. The reentry program meets at Antioch Baptist Church, 690 Ferry Ave., Camden, NJ (call the toll free number for meeting times).

### **B. Shelter**

Access to most of these shelters can be obtained through the Camden County Board of Social Services or through a general walk in. These shelters will also provide showers and laundry services.

### **MEN ONLY**



#### **VOA - Aletha R. Wright Center – Transitional Living**

271 Atlantic Ave, Camden

1-856-966-0909

Hours: 24 hours/day

Offers services to 81 single adult homeless men. It is specifically designed to move each individual through 3 phases which concentrate on addressing basic needs, life skills, employment and housing. Must have a referral from the Camden County Board of Social Services (“welfare”); however a courtesy stay may be granted for someone not receiving assistance from the CCBSS, until the next business day so that he may apply for assistance then.

#### **Respond, Inc. Path Homeless Services**

816-818 N 5<sup>th</sup> St, Camden

1-856-365-6597

Hours: Day shelter is open 5 days Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:30pm, Evening shelter is open from 7pm-7am from October-April Path provides emergency shelter to homeless men in Camden County. **Primarily a men’s shelter but houses women on occasion.**

### **Homeless Hospitality Network**

816-818 N 5<sup>th</sup> St, Camden

1-856-963-5820 Intake, information

1-609-238-8885 Emergency

Hours: Mon-Thu 9am-3:30pm.

From October to April, homeless men are housed by participating churches or synagogues on their property. Congregations serve as hosts for a 2 week period. Volunteers provide food, transportation and supervision. During the day the men go to a day center or jobs, on weekends the men stay with the host congregation. At the end of the 2 week period up to 6 men may be eligible to stay for up to 1 year in IHOC's transitional apartments.

### **WOMEN & CHILDREN**

#### **VOA Delaware Valley**

##### **Anna Sample Complex**

408 and 416 Line St, Camden

1-856-963-0430

Hours: Open 7 days 24/day

Three separate programs consisting of Anna Sample house housing 65 beds for single women with families, An 8 bed homeless shelter for single women with mental illness, and availability for 5 families of single female head of household with children. The length of stay varies for each individual. Must have a referral from the Camden County Board of Social Services (CCBSS), parole, ISP, DYFS, and some mental health programs (please call for specific agencies. however, a courtesy stay may be granted for someone not receiving assistance from the CCBSS until the next business day, so she may apply for assistance then.

### **C. Food**

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

## **FOOD PANTRIES**

### **Emergency Food, Neighborhood Center**



278 Kaighn Ave, Camden  
1-856-365-5295

Persons are given enough food for 3 meals for 3 days for each person in the household on a bi-monthly basis. Program is for South Camden residents only (from 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Street) Mon-Fri 1:30-3:00

### **Little Rock Baptist Church**



1210 Kenwood Ave, Camden  
1-856-757-0440

The church distributes food packages to needy persons who are residents of the Parkside section of Camden on the first and last Tuesday of the month from 5pm-7pm. Must bring ID, proof of address, children, and income.

### **Parkside United Methodist Church**



1418 Kaighns Ave, Camden  
1-856-964-2254

Hours: Wednesday 11:00-1:00

The church distributes packaged food to local needy persons and families of the Parkside section of Camden. Must bring ID, proof of address, children, and income.

### **Atco Assembly of God Church The Lord's Cupboard**



615 Jackson Rd, Atco  
856-768-0022

Offers food pantry services to residents of Atco and surrounding areas on Mon 10:30am-2pm. Persons must bring ID, proof of address, children, income, and must have transportation to the church.

### **Audubon United Methodist Church**



314 W Graisbury Ave, Audubon  
1-856-547-6114

Emergency food pantry services are offered for residents of Audubon; contact the church for days and times. Persons must bring ID, proof of income, address, and children.



**First United Methodist Church**

201 New Jersey Ave, Mt. Ephraim  
1-856-931-8090

The food pantry provides a 5 day supply of food per family member one time per month to needy individuals and families in Mt. Ephraim, Gloucester, Brooklawn, Haddon Heights, Audubon, and the Fairview section of Camden City on Thu 7:00pm-8:30pm.



**New Covenant Community Church**

255 Edgewood Ave, Audubon  
1-856-546-0344


The church offers an emergency food pantry on a monthly basis. Call the church and leave your name and number and the pantry manager will contact you for the time and date to access the pantry. Only residents of Audubon, Mt. Ephraim, Barrington, Haddon Hts, Bellmawr, Oaklyn, Haddon Twp, Haddonfield and Gloucester City. Must bring ID, proof of address, and children.



**Open Cupboard at Faith**

Faith Baptist Church  
76 Porter Ave, Erial  
1-856-784-3388

Food pantry services are provided to residents of Clementon, Lindenwold, Stratford, Erial, Pine Hill and Sicklerville from 9am-1pm. Must have a referral from a church member or have their own membership.



**St. Edward's Food Pantry**

500 Erial Rd (between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>), Pine Hill  
1-856-783-2670

The church offers an emergency food pantry for local poor and needy persons and families of the Pine Hill area. Persons can only get food once a month. The pantry operates the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thu 2:30pm-4:30pm (for emergencies just call). Must bring social security #, ID, proof of address (utility bill), children and income.

**St. Lawrence Catholic Church,  
St. Vincent DePaul Society**



100 South Ave, Lindenwold  
1-856-627-8824

Operates a food pantry for the local and needy persons in Lindenwold, Stratford, Laurel Springs and Pine Hill area Second Tuesday of each month 12:00-3:00 and second Saturday of each month 10:00-1:00. Must bring ID, proof of address, children and income.

**St. Maria Goretti Church, St. Vincent DePaul Society**



321 Orchard Ave, Runnemede  
1-856-933-0037

The church offers an emergency food pantry for local poor and needy residents of Runnemede (from the Black Horse Pike to the Turnpike). Persons must call for days and times. Must bring ID, proof of address, income and children.

**St. Teresa Church, St. Vincent DePaul Society**



13 E Evesham Rd, Runnemede  
1-856-939-1681

The church offers an emergency food pantry for local poor and needy residents of Runnemede. Persons must call for days and times and must bring ID, proof of address, income and children.

**St. Vincent DePaul Society**



157 W White Horse Pike, Berlin  
1-856-767-7391

Provides emergency and supplemental food to persons in need in Berlin Borough, Berlin Twp, Atco, Chesilhurst and Sicklerville Mon-Fri 11:00-3:00.

## **SOUP KITCHENS**



### **Cathedral Kitchen**

1514 Federal St, Camden  
1-856-338-1529 (kitchen); 1-856-964-6771 (office)  
Cathedral Kitchen provides a fully nutritional nightly meal, 5 days a week between 4pm-5pm.

### **Emergency Food, Neighborhood Center**

278 Kaighns Ave, Camden  
1-856-365-5295  
Hours: Monday-Friday 12:00-1:00  
A hot nutritious meal is offered at lunch time to anyone who is in need.

### **Parkside United Methodist Church**

1420 Kaighns Ave, Camden  
1-856-964-2254  
The church offers congregate meals to persons in need. Sun 8am church service is mandatory for breakfast Sun 9am.

## **EMERGENCY FOOD**

### **Emergency Food, Neighborhood Center**

278 Kaighns Ave, Camden  
1-856-365-5295  
South Camden residents only (from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> St)  
Mon-Fri 1:30-3:00

### **Good Samaritan Center, New Visions Community Services of Camden**

523 Stevens St, Camden  
1-856-963-0857  
Must have a referral from the Camden County Board of Social Services.  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-3:30

### **Open Cupboard at Faith**

Faith Baptist Church  
76 Porter Ave, Erial  
1-856-784-3388  
[www.cornerstonefellowshipnj.org](http://www.cornerstonefellowshipnj.org)  
Must have a referral from a church member or have their own membership and must provide ID, proof of address and children.  
9am-1pm daily

**Salvation Army**

915 Haddon Ave, Camden  
1-856-338-1700 x100  
Mon-Fri 8:30-4:00

**St. Vincent DePaul Society**

157 W White Horse Pike, Berlin  
1-856-767-7391

Must have a referral from the Camden County Board of Social Services (CCBSS) or other social service agency and live in Berlin Borough, Berlin Twp, Atco, Chesilhurst or Sicklerville. Serving Winslow Township  
Mon-Fri 11:00-3:00

**Your Food Shelf**

1500 Federal St, Camden  
1-856-365-6475

Must receive TANF through the Camden County Board of Social Services (CCBSS) and must live in East Camden.

**Serving families only.**

Mon-Fri 10:00-2:00 (closed 12pm-1pm for lunch)

**D. Clothing**

The following places provide free or low-cost clothing.

**FREE OR LOW-COST CLOTHING**



**Goodwill Thrift Store and Donation Center**

5461 Route 70, Pennsauken  
1-856-662-1650

Operates a thrift store for low cost clothing, etc.  
Mon-Sat 9am-9pm; Sun 12pm-6pm

**New Visions Community Services of Camden, Inc.**

523 Stevens St, Camden  
1-856-963-0857

Provides free clothing to persons in need. Also provides business attire for welfare to work participants.  
9am-3pm 7days/week (Dec-Apr); Mon-Fri 9am-3pm (May-Nov)



**E. Showers and Laundry**

The following places provide free showers and laundry facilities.

## **FREE SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES**

### **New Vision's**

523 Stevens St, Camden

1-856-963-0857

A homeless day center for men, women and children. It provides showers, washers/dryers, telephones and referrals to various agencies.

8am-3:30pm Monday-Friday

### **Respond, Inc. Path Homeless Service**

816-818 N 5<sup>th</sup> St, Camden

1-856-365-6597

Path is a day center for homeless males that provides showers, laundry, case management and information and referrals.

Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

### **Ray of Hope Drop-in Center**

523 Stevens St, Camden

1-856-338-1344

Assists clients in maintaining a healthy lifestyle through supportive interactions with staff. Offers a variety of amenities like a place to shower, laundry facilities, light snacks, telephone access, personal care items, condoms, bleach kits, as well as information and referral to medical and social services.

Mon-Fri 9:30am-6:30pm



## **F. Transportation**

There is no general program that will provide assistance paying for transportation. NJ Transit will no longer accept release papers in substitution for bus tickets. You may purchase from your social worker transit tickets for \$2.00 prior to release. You will be provided with the accurate amount of tickets to ensure your arrival to your destination.

For specific bus line information contact NJ Transit: 800-772-2222 or <http://www.njtransit.com>. If you click on the “trip planner” section you can find out routes.

If you intend to drive places, remember that you **must** have a valid driver's license, and valid insurance for any vehicle that you are driving. New Jersey now has a “Dollar-A-Day Car Insurance Program” for low-income individuals who receive Medicaid and want to insure a car registered in their name. It costs **\$360.00** per year if you pay all at once and

**\$365.00** if you pay in installments. You cannot get this insurance if your license or registration are revoked or suspended. Other restrictions may apply. For more information contact: 800-652-2471;  
<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/dollaradayqna.htm>.

## **TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DISABLED**

### **NJ Transit Access Link**

1-800-955-2321

Call between 7:30am and 4:00pm, Monday-Sunday

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.

### **SenHan Transit**

146 Black Horse Pike, Mt. Ephraim

1-856-456-3344

SenHan provides non-emergency medical transportation with door-to-door rides to doctors, hospitals and other medical facilities for seniors and persons who are disabled, as well as personal business errands, and employment transportation.

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

## **G. Money**

Once you get out of prison, you will need a source of income, until you can find a job. (see under "Finding a Job" for information about looking for work). **The DOC does not provide any "gate money," except for the money you may have 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 kind of public assistance ("welfare"), but not everyone qualifies for this. Here are the basics of what you will need to know about getting benefits.

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE (WFNJ-GA) AND  
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY**

**FAMILIES (WFNJ-TANF)** provide cash benefits, GA for single people and TANF for people who have custody of their children. Both programs will require you to work or actively look for work and both have a five-year lifetime limit. Work First New Jersey also has an Emergency Assistance program that you may qualify for if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless: it can pay for things like food, clothing and transportation costs to look for housing, but also temporary rental or mortgage payment assistance and utility payments. Depending on the county you are returning to you may be eligible to meet with the PREPARE social worker at your institution and completed an application prior to release. Inquire about information with your social worker.

**WFNJ-GA AND WFNJ-TANF APPLICATION SITES:**

**WFNJ/General Assistance/TANF**

600 Market St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Camden, NJ 08102  
1-856-225-8800

Provides emergency/financial services to adults without children for all the towns in Camden County that are not listed below.

Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri 8:30am-4:30pm; and Thursday 7:30am-7:30pm

**FYI:** If you were convicted of an offense involving distribution or sale of drugs after August 22, 1996, you cannot receive cash benefits under GA or TANF. If you were convicted of an offense after that date that only involved possession of drugs, you may be able to get benefits if you completed or are enrolled in a licensed drug treatment program, or completed a program in prison and are drug free (you will have to submit to drug testing). If you apply for welfare and the case worker asks about your criminal background, you should answer truthfully and to the best of your knowledge. If you lie, you may be found “ineligible” and could also be prosecuted.

**FOOD STAMPS**

**You may apply for food stamps 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 Food Stamps 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.

## **H. 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 some of their other programs and services, including health care. Please contact your **PREPARE** social worker for inquiries while in custody or you can contact the VA for questions about benefits at 1-800-827-1000; the health benefit number is 1-877-222-VETS. The Camden County Department of Veterans Affairs is located in the Lakeland Complex, 3 Collier Dr, PO Box 1535, Blackwood, NJ 08012 1-856-374-5801. **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.**

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

Federal Veterans Information:

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Info for NJ Veterans:

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

New Jersey Dept of Veterans Affairs: [www.state.nj.us/military](http://www.state.nj.us/military)

New Jersey Veterans Guide:

[www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide](http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide)

VA Home Loans:

[www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov)

Veterans Counseling Service Center:

[www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html](http://www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html)

**OTHER BENEFIT PROGRAMS:** You may be eligible for other cash benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), disability benefits (if you are seriously disabled and cannot work) call the Social Security office at 1-800-772-1213 for eligibility or to apply. The Women's, Infants, Children (WIC) program, 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 to that may be of assistance. In addition, there are Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support group meetings all over Camden County. To find a meeting near you, call 1-866-920-1212 (for AA) or 1-800-992-0401 (for NA). For other self-help group resources, call the New Jersey Self Help Clearinghouse at 1-800-367-6274.

## 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 to see a doctor if you have health conditions that need care. Also, stress and changes in routine can make many health conditions worse. Below, you'll find information on paying for health care and clinics and other resources in Camden County.

### 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, or if the main breadwinner in the household is unemployed, or isn't earning enough to support the family. Otherwise, if you are single, you will only qualify for Medicaid if you are low-income and are aged (meaning over 65), blind or so disabled that you are unable to work. 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 (GA) 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 getting those benefits to qualify for Medicaid.** For questions about Medicaid eligibility, you can call 1-800-356-1561. To apply for Medicaid in Camden County go to the Camden County Board of Social Services at 600 Market Street in Camden 1-856-225-8800 or 1-856-225-8266.

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 1-877-222-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.** To apply, contact the **AIDS Drug Distribution Program** at 1-609-588-7038 or toll free 1-877-613-4533, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm.

**Easter Seals New Jersey** provides information, referrals and loans of medical equipment (including wheelchairs) to people in need. For information call 1-732-257-6662.

### **B. General Health Care Providers**

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



#### **CAMDEN COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS**

##### **CamCare Health Corp., Gateway**

817 Federal St, Camden

1-856-541-8217

Hours: Mon & Wed 8am-8pm ( only for internal, pediatric, and OBGYN); Tue-Fri 8am-4:30pm; Sat 9am-1pm

##### **CamCare Health Corp., East**

2610 Federal St, Camden

1-856-635-0203

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

##### **CamCare Health Corp., North**

6<sup>th</sup> & Erie St, Camden

1-856-757-9180

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

##### **CamCare Health Corp., South**

8<sup>th</sup> & Carl Miller Blvd, Camden

1-856-541-4926

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

**Bellmawr Regional Health Center**

35 Browning Rd, Bellmawr  
1-856-931-2700 (ask for Nurses Station)  
Hours: Call for times

**Virtua Health – Kyle W. Will Family Health Center**

1000 Atlantic Ave, Camden  
1-856-246-3542  
Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu 8am-6pm; Wed & Fri 8:0am-4:00pm;  
Every other Sat 8am-12pm

**East Camden Regional Health Center**

2631 Federal St, Camden  
1-856-756-2265  
Hours: Call for times (only handles TB and STDs)

**Gloucester Twp., Regional Health Center**

DiPiero Center, Lakeland Rd, Blackwood  
1-856-374-6084  
Hours: Call for programs and hours

**Family Practice – Kennedy Family Health Services**

1 Somerdale Square, Somerdale  
1-856-309-7700  
Hours: Call for hours

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

**Project H.O.P.E.**

439 Clinton St, Camden  
1-856-968-2320  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:15am-4:30pm  
Our mission is to improve the health and well being of Camden's homeless by providing medical, social outreach and advocacy services in order to assist men, women and children in their transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

**CAMDEN COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES**

DiPiero Center, Lakeland Rd, Blackwood  
1-856-374-6300 or 1-800-999-9045  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm  
Provides many programs that address diabetes, high blood pressure screenings, hepatitis screenings, PAP smears, asthma services, routine blood work, immunizations, hearing and

vision testing, community health programs, etc. Must be a Camden County resident.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTHERN NJ**

317 Broadway, Camden

1-856-365-3519

Hours: Mon-Thu 8:30am-3pm (Females); 1:00-5:00pm (males).

Provides gynecological exams, pregnancy testing/counseling, prenatal care, STD testing/counseling, teen programs, emergency contraception, family planning and male programs. Sliding scale fees based on income and family size, Medicaid and most insurance is accepted.

**C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS**

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

**Aids Coalition of Southern NJ**

100 Essex Ave, Suite 300, Bellmawr

1-856-933-9500

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-4:30PM

Offers information about resources and services that are available in the community to people with HIV or AIDS.

**Catholic Charities, Horizon of Hope**

1845 Haddon Ave, Camden

1-856-342-4107

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Provides pastoral and mental health counseling and various support services to those infected or affected by HIV.

**Ray of Hope Drop-in Center**

523 Stevens St, Camden

1-856-338-1344

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-6:30pm

Ray of Hope is a drop in center for people who are HIV+ or at risk for HIV infection. Assists clients in maintaining a healthy lifestyle through supportive interactions with staff. Offers a variety of amenities like a place to shower, laundry facilities, light snacks, telephone access, personal care items, condoms, bleach kits, as well as information and referral to medical and social services.

**Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**

986 S Broad St, Trenton

1-609-396-8322 or call the State's hotline 1-877-613-4533.

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Wed 9am-6pm Wellness program is offered from 12:00-3:00.

Services include case management, support groups, buddy services and treatment advocacy.

**NJ AIDS/STD Hotline**

UMDNJ/65 Bergen St, Newark

1-800-624-2377 – 24 hours/7 days a week

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

**D. Services for People With Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C**

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

**TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM, CAMDEN COUNTY**

East Camden Regional Health Center

1-856-756-2265

Hours: By appointment on Wednesdays 8:30-4:30

Provides free testing, treatment, and medical supervision of suspected or diagnosed cases of tuberculosis and also conducts educational programs.

**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.

**CamCare Dental Center, East Camden**

2610 Federal St, Camden

1-856-635-0307

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

Sliding fee scale, based on income and federal guidelines, all major insurance is accepted.

**CamCare Dental Center, Gateway**

817 Federal St, Camden

1-856-963-8768

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

Sliding fee scale, based on income and federal guidelines, all major insurance is accepted.

**CamCare Dental Center, South Camden**

8<sup>th</sup> & Carl Miller Blvd, Camden

1-856-541-4926

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

Sliding fee scale, based on income and federal guidelines, all major insurance is accepted.

**Virtua Health Center**

1000 Atlantic Ave, Camden

1-856-246-3545

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:00pm (handles some emergencies in the morning and at lunch time)

**William H. Copperthwaite Dental Hygiene Clinic**

Taft Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 207, Blackwood

1-856-374-4930

Hours: Call for current hours.



**F. 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 fits your needs. Listed below are some of Camden County’s treatment resources, and each of these will also help with referrals if they can’t help you. If you want treatment, you should also ask your parole officer for help — beds in treatment facilities are hard to come by, and they can help get you in. There are Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support group meetings all over Camden County. To find a meeting near you, call 866-920-1212 (for AA) or 800-992-0401 (for NA). For other self-help group resources, call the New Jersey Self Help Clearinghouse at 800-367-6274. Also, you can call the Addictions Hotline of NJ at 800-238-2333.

**DETOXIFICATION**

**Kennedy Memorial Hospital – Substance Abuse Services**

Chapel Ave & Cooper Landing Rd, Cherry Hill

1-856-488-6789

Hours: Contact the program for more information.

Services include hospital based detoxification, intensive outpatient, outpatient detoxification, residential short term and partial hospitalization.

**Delaware Valley Medical Clinic - Blackwood**

300 Woodbury Turnersville Rd, Blackwood

1-856-227-5254

Hours: Mon-Fri 6am-2pm; Sat 7am-10am

This program offers outpatient methadone maintenance and methadone detoxification.

### **OUTPATIENT AND RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT**

#### **Addictions Hotline of New Jersey**

PO Box 1004, Williamstown

1-800-238-2333

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.

#### **National Clearinghouse for Drug and Alcohol Information**

11420 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland

1-800-729-6686

Hours: 24 hours/day

The nation's one-stop resource for substance abuse prevention and treatment information.

#### **Addictions Victorious (Fellowship House)**

1722 Broadway, Camden

1-856-964-4545

Hours: Tue 6pm-8pm

Provides a weekly support group meeting with a 12 step recovery program based on Biblical principles; also provides referrals to Christian rehabilitation centers.

Service area: Camden City

#### **Arway Recovery Inc.**

120 Lakeside Drive Atco NJ

1-609-405-6550

Hours: Mainly by referral 24/7

This program provides comprehensive and quality drug addiction care to those in need of a drug-free, supportive environment.

Service area: primarily Camden City

#### **Cooper House**

7250 Westfield Ave, Suite J, Pennsauken

1-856-662-0221

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-2:30 For therapy services.

Cooper House provides screening and assessment, drug, alcohol group and individual treatment. **Services are for women only.**

**Genesis Counseling Center**

566 Haddon Ave, Collingswood

1-856-858-9314

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-8pm appointments are available

Provides alcohol and drug addictions assessment/testing as well as outpatient group and individual services.

*Please note: If Genesis Counseling center does not answer please call the access center at JFK Hospital 856-428-4357 or Our Lady of Lords 856-541-2222.*

**IDRC – Camden County (Intoxicated Driver Resource Center)**

2600 Mt. Ephraim Ave, Camden

1-856-225-5109

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm

Alcohol treatment, intensive day and aftercare, evening groups and IDRC for people with motor vehicle violations are provided.

**Hispanic Family Center – La Esperanza**

2700 Westfield Ave, Camden

1-856-365-7393

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-9:00pm for individual, 8:30-2:00 for partial care, and 8:30-2:00 for senior services.

Offers individual, family and group substance abuse services.

**Kennedy Memorial Hospital – Substance Abuse Services Access Center**

Chapel Ave & Cooper Landing Rd, Cherry Hill

1-856-488-6789

Hours: Contact the program for more information.

Services include hospital based detoxification, intensive outpatient, outpatient detoxification, residential short term and partial hospitalization.

**Maryville, Inc.**

Williamstown NJ

1-856-629-0244 x310 or x 311

Hours: Mon-Thu 9am-8pm; Fri 9am-4pm

Assessments evaluations and drug screening, one-on-one and group counseling and intensive supervised sessions are offered.

Website: [www.maryvillerehab.org](http://www.maryvillerehab.org)

**My Brother's Keeper**

502 State St, Camden

1-856-365-1332

Hours: Contact the program for more information.

The recovery ministry is a faith based program that offers transitional housing for addicted men. There is also a day center that provides information about substance abuse, job training, medical treatment and other resources available in the community.

**Dorcas House** is the female component of My Brother's Keeper. It focuses on women in recovery, coming out of prison. The program provides information and referral about resources in the community, however, it doesn't have living space for females as of yet.

**Delaware Valley Medical Clinic - Blackwood**

300 Woodbury Turnersville Rd, Blackwood

1-856-227-5254

Hours: Mon-Sat 5:30am-10:30am Closed on Sundays.

This program offers outpatient methadone maintenance and methadone detoxification.

**Princeton House**

905 Herrontown Rd, Princeton

1-800-242-2550 (inpatient); 856-779-8455 (outpatient in Cherry Hill)

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm (outpatient); 24 hours/day (inpatient)

Offers a full continuum of behavioral health care, inpatient, partial hospital, intensive outpatient and traditional outpatient services.

**Starting Point Delaware Valley Addictions Center**

215 Highland Ave, Suite C, Westmont

1-856-854-3155 x111

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-10pm; Sat 9am-2pm

Outpatient programs are available; they specialize in the relapse process and help those that are stuck in the recovery process.

**Sikora Center, Inc.**

613-615 Clinton St, Camden

1-856-963-1312

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-12:30 for women. Please call for evening hours for men.

Offers drug treatment, prevention/education, intervention and support services to women and men; groups are gender specific.

**SODAT of New Jersey**

530 Cooper St, Camden

1-856-964-5000

Hours: Mon-Thu 9am-9pm; 9am-4pm Fri



Offers outpatient drug and alcohol treatment, group and individual sessions.

**Substance Abuse Treatment Services Center for Family Services**

108 Somerdale Rd, Voorhees

1-856-428-5688 x3

Hours: intensive outpatient offered Mon, Wed, Thurs 6-9, IDRC offered Tues 6-7.

Offers substance abuse assessment, treatment, education and support for adults, adolescents, families and groups.

**G. Mental Health Services/ Individual Counseling**

While the medical care and drug treatment facilities listed in this booklet 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.**

**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 your self 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.**

**Archway ACT (Adult Counseling and Therapy)**

258 Pinedge Dr, Berlin

1-856-767-6052

Hours: Mon-Fri 3:00-8:30pm

Partial care program for adults with mental illness; group treatment and vocational training are provided.

**Catholic Charities – Guadalupe Family Services**

509 State St, Camden

1-856-365-8081

Hours: Call for hours

Provides high quality, low cost individual, couple, family and group counseling services to all individuals requesting treatment. Fees are on a sliding scale.

**Center for Family Services – Camden**

584 Benson St, Camden

1-856-964-1990

Hours: By appointment only.

Services include substance abuse assessment, as well as individual, marital, and family therapy.

**Center for Family Services – Voorhees**

108 Somerdale Rd, Voorhees

1-856-428-5688

Hours: Mon-Thu 9am-8pm; Fri 9am-3pm

Services include substance abuse assessment, as well as individual, marital, and family therapy.

**Genesis Counseling Center, Mental Health**

566 Haddon Ave, Collingswood

1-856-858-9314

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Offers individual, family, and group counseling services.

**Harmony Place**

7070 A Route 70, Pennsauken

1-856-910-0303

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00 Clients seen 9:30-4:00pm.

Services for mental illness and substance abuse issues to adults are provided.

**Hispanic Family Center – Partial Care Services**

35 Church St, Camden

1-856-365-7393

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-9:00pm

Intensive outpatient mental health services are provided.

**Starting Point, Inc. of New Jersey**

215 Highland Ave, Suite C, Westmont

1-856-854-3155

Hours: 7 days a week by appointment.

Provides many different counseling programs for individuals and families.

**South Jersey Behavioral, Camden Outpatient Services**

400 Market St, Camden

1-856-541-1700 x 2030

Hours: By appointment

Services include individual, family and group therapy, psychiatric evaluation, medication monitoring, assessment and referrals.

**South Jersey Behavioral, Stratford Outpatient Services**

1 Colby Rd, Suite 7, Stratford

1-856-541-1700 x 2300

Hours: By appointment

Services include individual, family and group therapy, psychiatric evaluation, medication monitoring, assessment and referrals.

## **H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses/Eye care**



### **Bellmawr Regional Health Center**

35 Browning Rd, Bellmawr

1-856-931-2700

Hours: Call for hours

This site offers low cost vision screening services.

### **Camden Eye Center – Camden**

400 Chambers Ave, Camden

1-856-365-1811

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Provides comprehensive, high quality, low cost eye and vision care services to the underserved population.

### **Camden Eye Center – Collingswood**

Parkview on the Terrace, Collingswood

1-856-869-8702

Hours: Tuesday only 9:00-11:00am

Provides comprehensive, high quality, low cost eye and vision care services to the underserved population.

### **Couth Jersey Eye Center – Blackwood**

Jefferson House, Lakeland Rd, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Blackwood

1-856-374-6078

Hours: Call for hours

Provides comprehensive, high quality, low cost eye and vision care services to the underserved population.

### **Gloucester Twp Regional Health Center**

DiPiero Center, Lakeland Rd, Blackwood

1-856-374-6084

Hours: Call for hours

This site offers low cost vision screening services.



## **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 of accurate dates that you were employed with the company. Knowing this information is vital to ensuring employment. Employers will not be interested in hearing that you do not remember dates or addresses for your work history. If an employer decides to hire you he will also need your identification so make sure that is readily available.

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

### **Talking About Your Criminal Record:**

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

### **IT'S A JOB FOR RIGHT NOW, IT'S NOT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE**

When you are first starting out, especially if you've been out of the job market for a while, or have never had a job, you need to build a work history, and, of course, you need to make some money. Take whatever job you can get for now — it doesn't have to be the exact job you want, or what you eventually want to be doing. Do this job well—even if it's not

a great job—and it can help you get a better one in the future. A year of good job performance will make your criminal record matter less.

## **B. Help with Job Search and Job Training: Resources**

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

### **ACP Construction Trades Apprenticeship Program**

1535 Broadway, Camden

1-866-876-4527 or 866-TRN4JBS

Hours: Wed 10:00am



This is a 13 week (35 hours/week) construction trades program offering GED preparation, drug screening, construction site visits, job readiness training, basic safety, construction systems awareness, resume writing, job development, soft skill development and case management services. Website: [www.acpusa.org](http://www.acpusa.org)

### **Camden County One-Stop**

2600 Mt. Ephraim Ave, Camden

1-856-614-3150 (help desk)

1-877-995-2600 (info line)

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

This facility has the ability to link people with jobs and training. Job listings, placement in job training classes and counseling for men and women who have been out of the job market.

### **OEO – Urban Women’s Center**

900 Broadway, Camden

1-856-365-8989

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Women are trained for employment through the Job Readiness Program. Other services offered are case management, counseling and training in a variety of traditional and non-traditional work skills. Job placement assistance is available to job ready women.

### **Puerto Rican Unity for Progress (PRUP)**

427 Broadway, Camden

1-856-541-1418

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Offers a job placement and referral program that addresses fundamental barriers such as lack of work ethics, office manners and behavior, job keeping skills, adequate dressing and interviewing techniques.

## **NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

2600 Mt. Ephraim Ave, Suite 103, Camden

1-856-614-2500

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

This program includes diagnostic evaluation, vocational guidance and counseling, therapies, vocational training, rehabilitation workshop and training, tools, supplies, assistive devices, vehicle modification, supported employment/job coaching and job placement assistance. Disability must be a significant impediment to 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 is varies by job). These include: aircraft/airport employees; paid public school employees, school bus drivers and school crossing guards; bank employees; bartenders and waiters in establishments where liquor is served; housing authority and municipal police and parking enforcement officers; New Jersey Turnpike Authority employees; liquor retail, wholesale, manufacturing or distributing employees; paid firefighters; child care center employees; community residences for individuals with developmental disabilities. A much larger number of jobs require that you disclose your criminal record, and that employers perform background checks; some of these, however, also require that employers consider evidence of rehabilitation. These include most jobs in the health care and counseling fields (including drug and alcohol counseling) and social workers.

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 a “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.

**FYI:** Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC): With the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, 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:** Provides bonding “or insurance coverage” for employers who hire individuals with criminal histories who are otherwise qualified but cannot gain employment due to their criminal backgrounds. Please contact your local one stop for more information 1-877-995-2600 (info line)

## **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.

### **LIBRARIES**

#### **Camden Free Public Library, Centerville/Ferry Ave**

852 Ferry Ave, Camden

1-856-342-9789

#### **Camden Free Public Library, Fairview Branch**

1503 Collings Rd, Camden

1-856-962-6669

#### **Camden Free Public Library, Main**

418 Federal St, Camden

1-856-757-7640

#### **Anthony P. Infanti Bellmawr Branch Library**

35 E Browning Rd, Bellmawr

1-856-931-1400

#### **Gloucester Twp-Blackwood Rotary Public Library**

15 S Black Horse Pike, Blackwood

1-856-228-0022

#### **M. Allan Vogelson Regional Branch Library**

203 Laurel Rd, Voorhees

1-856-772-1636

#### **William G. Rohrer Memorial Library**

15 MacArthur Blvd, Haddon Twp

1-856-854-2752

#### **Haddonfield Public Library**

60 Haddon Ave, Haddonfield

1-856-429-1304

#### **Merchantville Public Library**

130 South Centre St, Merchantville

1-856-665-3128

#### **Pennsauken Free Public Library**

5605 Crescent Blvd, Pennsauken

1-856-665-5959



## **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 children, your spouse, your parents, and others who are part of your family, and they may be glad to see you home, but your return can be stressful for you and for them. All kinds of issues can come up, and you may need some help solving some of the problems that arise. This section provides some information and resources to help solve these issues.

### **Hotlines for Family Services Resources**

**NJ Child Abuse/ Neglect Hotline:**

1(877) NJABUSE (652-2873)

**Child Care Hotline:**

1(800) 332-9227

**NJ Child Support Hotline:**

1 (877) NJKIDS- 1 (655-4371)

**Division of Family Development:**

1(800) 792-9773

**NJ Division of Youth and Family Services:**

1 (800) 331-DYFS (3937)

**Family Health Line:**

1 (800) 328-3838

**Family Help Line (for stressed parents):**

1 (800) THE KIDS (843-2537)

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:**

1(800) 799-7233

**NJ Domestic Violence Hotline:**

1(800) 572-7223

**Parents Anonymous:**

1(800) 843-5437

## **A. Family Counseling Resources**

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

### **Catholic Charities – Guadalupe Family Service**

509 State St, Camden

1-856-365-8081

Hours: Call for hours

Provides high quality, low cost, individual, couple, family and group counseling services to all individuals requesting treatment.

### **Center for Family Services - Camden**

584 Benson St, Camden

1-856-964-1990

Hours: By appointment

Offers substance abuse assessment, parenting education, individual, marital and family therapy, psychiatric evaluation, life skills education, support groups, as well as in-home therapy for the elderly and disabled.

### **Center for Family Services - Voorhees**

108 Somerdale Rd, Voorhees

1-856-428-5688

Hours: Mon-Thu 9am-8pm; Fri 9am-3pm

Offers substance abuse assessment, parenting education, individual, marital and family therapy, psychiatric evaluation, life skills education, support groups, as well as in-home therapy for the elderly and disabled.

### **Genesis Counseling Center, Inc.**

566 Haddon Ave, Collingswood

1-856-858-9314

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Offers a wide range of counseling services and programs; offers individual, group and family counseling for all ages. Services include alcohol and drug addictions testing, attention deficit disorder, marriage counseling, eating disorders, smoking cessation, parent support and education groups, mental health and psychological testing, depression, grief and loss, stress and loneliness.

### **Starting Point**

215 Highland Ave, Suite C, Westmont

1-856-854-3155

Hours: By appointment

Offers support programs, workshops and referrals in many areas, including gambling, caregivers support, smoking cessation, adolescent counseling, eating disorders, teenage and

young adult therapy, holistic counseling, play therapy, and much more to individuals and families.

**Parents Anonymous of New Jersey, Inc.**

127 US Route 206, Suite 10, Hamilton

1-609-585-7666

1-800-843-5437 (24 hour hotline)

Hours: Call to confirm group times at different locations

Self-help for parents who are under stress and who want to improve their relationship with their children. Groups meet weekly and are facilitated by a volunteer professional; many groups provide child care. Groups meet in most counties throughout the state with some bilingual groups available. Parents Anonymous also offers an on-line support group as well.



**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 children 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 Youth and Family Services (DYFS), at 1-856-614-2700 or 1-800-531-1091. 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.

**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.**

**C. Getting and Paying Child Support**

Whether you have custody of your children on your own when you get out, and need help from an absent (“non-custodial”) parent, or you do not have custody of kids who need your support, child support payments will be an important part of your life after you are released. Some basic information is included below, as well as other places to go to get more information. **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 1-888-576-5529, or the Camden County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at 1-856-482-0618. You can also contact Camden County Legal Services, at 745 Market St, Camden, 1-856-964-2010. The Prisoner's Self Help Legal Clinic is another resource however this agency is only accessible on the web at [www.pshlc.org](http://www.pshlc.org).

### **GETTING AND ENFORCING A CHILD SUPPORT ORDER**

If you have custody of your children, and want financial support from the non-custodial parent, you can apply for child support at the Superior Court of NJ Family Division, Hall of Justice, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 101 S 5<sup>th</sup> St, Camden, 1-856-379-2200. There is a one time fee. You can also call 1-877-NJKIDS1 for more information about this. If you are receiving public assistance, there is no fee, and Work First New Jersey/TANF can help with the application, locating the absent parent, and paternity testing. You will also not get most of the money paid in support while you are receiving public assistance, because it will go to pay back the state for what has been paid to you.

### **PAYING CHILD SUPPORT**

If you have children 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:

**PRE-RELEASE:** Before you are released, you can seek a modification of a child support order, based on your change in circumstances (incarceration). You would be asking the court to reduce the amount you owe, so that arrears do not continue to build up while you are in prison. This process can be done without a lawyer but it is complicated because you have to fill out and send the appropriate papers to court, the other parent

or his or her lawyer, and to the Probation Division. The forms you need and the instructions are available at the state judiciary website:

[www.judiciary.state.nj.us/prose/infmpjm.pdf](http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/prose/infmpjm.pdf), or may be available in your prison law library.

**POST-RELEASE:** You can find out how much you owe, and whether there is an existing child support order by going to the Family Division at the Hall of Justice, 101 S 5<sup>th</sup> St, 2nd Floor, Camden. If you have not been paying child support, you should be aware that there may be a warrant issued for your arrest — this may have been addressed at the time you were being released, but you should still call before you go there: 1-856-379-2200. Tell them who you are, that you have just been released from prison and want to find out about how to pay your child support, and ask if there is a warrant. You can ask if they will “recall” the warrant so that you can come in, possibly work out a payment plan, and get a modification of the child support order.

#### **D. Domestic Violence Resources**

The following places provide counseling, support and shelter, or referrals to shelter in domestic violence situations. You can also call the 24 hour hotline from the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women: **1-800-572-SAFE**.

##### **Camden County Women’s Center**

P.O Box 1459  
Blackwood, NJ 08012  
1-856-227-1234 (hotline)

Offers domestic violence crisis intervention, group and individual counseling for victims and their children. It also provides emergency shelter, food, clothing, court assistance accompaniment and case management services.

##### **Domestic Violence Outreach Services**

311 Market Street Camden  
1-856-963-5668

Educates and gives support needed to help victims of domestic violence reach their own personal goals.



##### **Family Violence Prevention Program**

1812 Federal St, Camden  
1-856-668-2065

This program is a response to intimate partner violence providing treatment, counseling and accountability. It’s for perpetrators of domestic violence aimed at helping batterers address and correct the causes of their problems. It helps batterers become responsible family members and useful

adults by enabling them to develop skills to help eliminate violent behavior patterns and take responsibility for their actions.

## 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.



### **High School Diploma/GED Certificate/High School Equivalency Degree (HSED)/Vocational School Certificates**

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

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

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

Please call 609-777-1050 for further assistance.

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

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

### **A. GED Classes**

The places in Camden 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.

#### **GED LOCATIONS**

##### **Camden County College**

Broadway and Cooper St, Camden  
1-856-338-1817

##### **Camden County Resource Center**

7-856-968-4200

##### **Genesis School of Business**

Virtua Health Building  
Atlantic and Mt. Ephraim Ave, Camden  
1-856-963-1311

##### **Jerrothia Riggs Adult Learning Center**

1656 Kaighn Ave, Camden  
856-966-5223

##### **OEO – Urban Women’s Center**

900 Broadway, Camden  
1-856-365-8989  
GED classes are for men and women receiving TANF or GA.

##### **Work Group**

3720 Marlton Pike, Pennsauken  
1-856-486-7390

### **B. 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 Camden County.

#### **LOCAL AREA COLLEGES**

##### **Camden County College, Blackwood**

200 College Dr  
1-856-227-7200

**Camden County College, Camden**  
Broadway and Cooper St  
1-856-338-1817

**Camden County College, Cherry Hill**  
1889 Route 70 East  
1-856-874-6000

**Rowan University, Camden**  
200 N Broadway  
1-856-756-5400

**Rutgers University, Camden**  
406 Penn St  
1-856-225-1766

#### **CAN I GET FINANCIAL AID?**

To pay for higher education, 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 both information and referrals, **1-888-576-5529**. You can also contact **Camden County Legal Services**, at 745 Market St, Camden, **1-856-964-2010**. The **Prisoner’s Self Help Legal Clinic** is another resource however this agency is only accessible on the web at [www.pshlc.org](http://www.pshlc.org).

### **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 go to the LSNJ website, where you can download it for free:

<http://www.lsnj.org/english/crime/municipalcourt/clearingyourrecord.cfm>



### **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 1-800-685-1111. By mail, be sure to include your full name, current address, Social Security number, and most recent former address for file-matching purposes.

**TRANSUNION PERSONAL CREDIT REPORT:**

PO Box 1000, Chester PA 19022  
Call 1-800-888-4213.

**EXPERIAN:**

PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013  
Call 1-800-397-3742.

**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 Social Services prior to release.** Also you may apply with the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live or from your Municipal Clerk once you are released. Registration forms are also available in various State agencies and at Division of Motor Vehicle offices and can be obtained while transacting

agency business. If you are not sure, you can visit [http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/vote\\_doe.html](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 towards 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.

### Places to stay

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### Appointments to make? Doctors? Job help? Employers? Applying for benefits?

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### People I need to see or call:

Who? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who? \_\_\_\_\_

## Your First Weeks Out

Here is a basic calendar to use to plan your first days out of prison. On the next page, there are some questions to ask yourself about what you plan to do. You can mark appointments on the calendar, and write in dates in the small boxes.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Where/phone number?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Where/phone number?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Where/phone number?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Other things I need to do (get I.D., get prescriptions, go to a support group, etc.):**

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I.D. Checklist**

<b>Documents</b>	<b>Have?</b>	<b>Need?</b>
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	_____	_____

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Getting Ready to Apply for a Job

In addition to personal information, most jobs ask questions about your background and experience. If you don't already have a résumé, use this space to list information to fill out a job application, or for an interview. Don't forget to include dates.

### Education

### Dates

(For example: list high school, GED, or other education, and include any trade or vocational certificates.)

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### Work Experience

### Dates

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### References

### Phone Numbers

(List people who know you and can speak well of you.)

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**My Contacts:**  
**Important Names and Phone Numbers**

Parole Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Parole Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parole Office: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Smart Book Topics



**Getting Started:  
I.D. and Other Documents**



**First Steps After Release:  
Where Do I Go to Find...**



**Taking Care of You:  
Getting Support**



**Taking Care of You:  
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**