

List of Resources for the Formerly Incarcerated

The books in this bibliography were carefully selected to provide resources for the formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, and their communities to help ease the transition for a successful return to society, some of which will also be useful for the currently incarcerated. The print books and online resources included in this list were selected and recommended by Reentry Essentials Initiative.

Bovan, Richard. *The Dedicated Ex-Prisoner's Guide for Getting Through the Halfway House: 10 Things to Do to Make Your Rehabilitative Stay Short, Productive, & Profitable*. Full Surface Publishing, 2019.

This guide was written by an ex-prisoner who, after serving years in prison and living in a halfway house, made it through successfully, going on to become a very accomplished entrepreneur and businessman. It provides much-needed inside info to hallway house pre-residents and residents on how to not only make it through the halfway house successfully, but also how to utilize the time spent there in the best, most-productive ways possible.

Bovan, Richard. *The Dedicated Ex-Prisoner's Guide to Life and Success on the Outside: 10 Rules for Making it in Society After Doing Time*. Full Surface Publishing, 2018.

There are more people incarcerated in the world today than at any other time in history. Every year millions of prisoners are released back into society after having completed their sentences, with the majority returning to prison within just a short time after their release. This book is a 10-rule guidebook for the ex-prisoner who is determined to be successful once released and offers invaluable information on how to overcome the odds of returning to prison.

Clay, Dan. *How to Write the Perfect Resume*. Self-published, 2018.

The author states that most people go about writing a resume the wrong way. In this step-by-step, comprehensive guide, *How to Write the Perfect Resume* breaks down the exact method the author carefully developed over a period of ten years to develop rock solid resumes that get results--no matter which job you're trying to land. By following the principles outlined in this book, the author promises that can turn your job search around and get one step closer to the job you've always dreamed of.

Dalton, Steve. *The Job Closer: Time-Saving Techniques for Acing Resumes, Interviews, Negotiations, and More*. Ten Speed Press, 2021.

In *The Job Closer*, the author Job Search shows you how to land your dream job, from writing the perfect resume and cover letter to nailing any interview and negotiating your offer.

Drevno, Mark. *Jails to Jobs: Seven Steps to Becoming Employed*. Jails to Jobs, Inc., 2014.

This book offers a step-by-step approach written specifically for ex-offenders that will take the reader through the process of finding a job, offering tips and techniques to help the reader be more effective and give them the encouragement they need to reach their final goal – a job that is a good fit for them and the employer.

***GED Study Guide, 2021-2022: 723 Test Questions and Detailed Answer Explanations for All Subjects (3 Full-Length Practice Exams = Test Prep)*. Newstone Test Prep, 2021.**

This book combines theory and practice questions so that students are fully prepared before taking the exam. This guide has 723 questions along with answer explanations, as well as three full-length tests included.

Krannich, Ronald L., Ph.D. *Job Interview Tips for Overcoming Red Flags: Winning Strategies, Examples, and Short Stories for People with No-So-Hot Backgrounds*. Impact Publications, 2020.

Most people have one or two red flags in their background – some minor and embarrassing, others major job killers. Given today's high-tech world, with its rapid communication and instant background checks, your red flags may follow you wherever you go. For employers, they become major objections to hiring as the formerly incarcerated are often considered risky hires. That's the subject of this unique book for job seekers - how to best handle red flags during the job interview.

LaBeet, Gregory S. *The End of Recidivism: The Ultimate Guide to Transforming the Mind of the Incarcerated*. Universal Lion Publishing, 2021.

The book is designed to be a blueprint for self-transformation inside of prison to achieve success after prison. With practical advice to prepare for your release and spiritual guidance to align with the law of attraction, you can live a life that is so much more than simply surviving.

Loftsgordon, Amy and Cara O'Neill. *Credit Repair*. Nolo, 2020.

This book discusses how to prioritize debts and create a budget, reduce debt and cut expenses, negotiate with creditors, correct credit report errors and remove old information, add positive information to a credit report, adopt strategies to rebuild credit, and avoid identity theft and credit repair scams. This updated edition includes the latest student loan repayment programs, new credit-building strategies, changes to the credit scoring of tax liens, medical debt, and civil judgments, identity theft reporting developments, and more.

Miller, Michael. *Computer Basics: Windows 10 Edition: Absolute Beginner's Guide*. Que Publishing, 2020.

This is a beginner's guide to using a computer or tablet with the Windows 10 operating system. The author promises that even if you've never used a Windows computer before, this book shows you how to do what you want, one incredibly clear and easy step at a time.

Quarterman, Tonia. *The Ex-Con Factor: You Did Your Time, Now What?: Journey from D.O.C. to C.E.O.* Self-published, 2016.

The book is a commonsense map about the transition and mindsets of ex-offenders. It deals with choices made before and after doing time from juvenile detention, jail, prison, and work release to returning to society. The author understands the judgement and difficulties associated with the stigma of being an ex-felon. However, where there's a will there's a way for jobs, housing, entrepreneurship, marriage, finances, home ownership, excellent credit and more – even for an ex-felon.

Reentry Essentials. *Reentry Sourcebook*. Reentry Essentials, 2021.

This book is a compilation of local, state, and national resources to help individuals navigate and overcome the challenges of reentry. An extraordinarily comprehensive and insightful resource, the *Reentry Sourcebook* is ideally suited to help those in need: Successfully reintegrate back into communities; obtain and retain legitimate and productive employment; advance educational goals; move from social dependence to self-sufficiency with 14 chapters covering information as diverse as mental health, substance abuse, housing and homelessness, financial assistance, education and employment, family, and entrepreneurship, the Reentry Source is a critical component of any successful reentry strategy.

Ross, Jeffrey Ian, Ph.D., and Stephen C. Richards, Ph.D. *Beyond Bars: Rejoining Society After Prison*. Alpha Books, 2009.

Beyond Bars is a practical and comprehensive guide for ex-convicts and their families about managing a successful reentry into the community and includes: Tips on how to prepare for release while still in prison. Ways to deal with family members, especially spouses and children. Finding a job. Money issues such as budgets, bank accounts, taxes, and debt. And avoiding drugs and other illicit activities.

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. One World, 2014.

The author was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew the author into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Syphax, Tracey D and Detric "Qadiriyyah" Goss. *From the Block to the Boardroom: The Tracy D. Syphax Story*. Self-published, 2012.

As an ex-offender, the author related that the road to starting his own multi-million dollar enterprise was one littered with obstacles that would have discouraged many people but became rungs on his ladder to success. His transition from the "block to the boardroom" was one that made him a friend, enemy, mentor and role model. While the construction and real estate business ultimately made him a millionaire on paper, his dealings in the past cost him plenty. This book gives the reader a first-hand look at how the author changed his life.

Ward, Andre A. *A Guide to Right Thinking for Reentry: A Comprehensive Study Guide for the Presently and Formerly Incarcerated*. Andor Publishing, 2018.

For many people, being incarcerated and then released from jails or prisons is something that often presents challenges. While incarcerated, people cope with the feeling of being away from those they care about and love; reflect on the actions that led them to being incarcerated; and ultimately face the fact that one day they will return to society. Then, upon release, the formerly incarcerated person has to reconnect or connect with family or others; navigate social systems; and become acquainted with a new way of living, all of

which requires a new way of thinking. *A Guide to Right Thinking for Reentry* offers a simple yet comprehensive way to develop and maintain the right kind of thinking both during incarceration and upon release, so that one can live a positive and productive life.

Western, Bruce. *Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison*. Russell Sage Foundation, 2018.

In *Homeward*, sociologist Bruce Western examines the tumultuous first year after release from prison. Drawing from in-depth interviews with over one hundred individuals, he describes the lives of the formerly incarcerated and demonstrates how poverty, racial inequality, and failures of social support trap many in a cycle of vulnerability despite their efforts to rejoin society. Western concludes that boosting the social integration of former prisoners is key to both ameliorating deep disadvantage and strengthening public safety. He advocates policies that increase assistance to those in their first year after prison, including guaranteed housing and health care, drug treatment, and transitional employment.

Wilson, Chris. *The Master Plan: My Journey from Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2019.

Growing up in a tough Washington, D.C., neighborhood, Chris Wilson was so afraid for his life he wouldn't leave the house without a gun. One night, defending himself, he killed a man. At eighteen, he was sentenced to life in prison with no hope of parole. But what should have been the end of his story became the beginning. Deciding to make something of his life, Chris embarked on a journey of self-improvement--reading, working out, learning languages, even starting a business. He wrote his Master Plan: a list of all he expected to accomplish or acquire. He worked his plan every day for years, and in his mid-thirties he did the impossible: he convinced a judge to reduce his sentence and became a free man