

HOW TO FIND A JOB AFTER PRISON



Looking for a job as a person with a criminal history can be challenging. Numerous obstacles will be in your way. However, it is not impossible to find the job for you. You can be hired!

YOUR JOB SEARCH IS YOUR JOB

In his book “What Color is Your Parachute,” Richard Bolles says to treat your job search as if it is your job. Work at it eight hours a day and plan your search strategy:

- **Make a “To-Do” list and outline your daily activities.**
- **Apply for jobs early in the day.**
- **Call employers to find out the best time to apply in person.**
- **Keep track of employers you talk to, including dates, names, and company notes.**
- **Be prepared with resumes, pens, notebook, maps, and job information.**
- **Follow up on leads immediately. Do not wait!**
- **Network and let everyone know you are job searching.**
- **Set up appropriate job alerts through internet job boards such as Indeed, Monster, and CareerBuilder.**

YOU WILL NEED A RESUME

Your resume should be:

- **Truthful: List your skills in a positive way**
- **Targeted: Highlight skills and abilities for specific jobs**
- **Brief: Limit your resume to one page if possible**
- **Accurate: Proofread for typing and spelling and have a trusted friend do the same**

YOUR CONVICTION WILL COME UP

Sometime during your job search and hiring process, employers will use background checks to confirm your qualifications and application information.

- **Be Honest**
- **Keep Things Simple**
- **Make a Good Impression**
- **Share Your Career Goals**
- **Maintain Good Eye Contact**
- **Show Interest**

IN CONCLUSION

Getting a job is your job until you are hired! There will be obstacles in your way—obstacles others will not have. However, you can present yourself as employable. Focus on the positives you bring to the employer. Highlight what you can do for them. Remain positive, plan ahead, and be prepared. Your new job is waiting for you. Go get it!

For more information and resources from Prison Fellowship, visit <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/resources/training-resources/>.