



# *RESOURCE HANDBOOK*

*U.S. PROBATION OFFICE*

*WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK*

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## BASIC NECESSITIES

211 is a free and confidential service that helps people find the local resources they need (including reentry services) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 211 or by visiting <http://www.211wny.org/>

### HOUSING

- ◆ Local homeless shelters offer emergency housing. Shelters can be located via 211 services.
- ◆ Local Department of Social Services offices offer temporary emergency housing assistance and/or you may be eligible for rental vouchers based on your income.
- ◆ Faith-based and community outreach agencies offer transitional housing programs. Local agencies can be found at: <http://www.211wny.org/>
- ◆ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides low-cost housing assistance to those who qualify. Section 8 and Belmont are programs are overseen by HUD.
- ◆ The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote community wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families. Local CoC programs can be found at: <https://resources.hud.gov/>

### FOOD/CLOTHING

- ◆ Local homeless shelters, community pantries, religious organizations, and community outreach programs offer food and clothing.
- ◆ Department of Social Services assists families with emergency food-stamps

### TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ You may qualify for bus passes through the Department of Social Services work programs, substance abuse and mental health treatment providers, or vocational programs
- ◆ If you are receiving SSI/SSDI, you qualify for free medical transportation through Medicaid
- ◆ Most cities offer Uber, Lyft, and Taxi services
- ◆ Private Transportation

## IDENTIFICATION

### U.S. PROBATION I.D. CARD

- ◆ Request a Client Identification Card from your officer to gain access to the building and check-in at the Probation Office.
- ◆ A U.S. Probation Photo ID Card can be provided by your officer and used at the DMV and other agencies as photo identification.

### BIRTH CERTIFICATES

- ◆ Is obtained in your city of birth at the local vital statistics office.
- ◆ The application and information are found at: [https://www.health.ny.gov/vital\\_records/birth.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/birth.htm)

### SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

- ◆ If you never have applied for a Social Security card, you must apply in person at the local Social Security office.
- ◆ You can obtain a replacement card free from the Social Security Administration.
- ◆ The application & information can be found at: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/>

### NEW YORK STATE NON-DRIVER'S ID CARD REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ A non-driver ID is a photo ID card issued to anyone who does not have a driver's license. You must apply at a DMV office.
- ◆ One or more of the following forms of identification may be necessary to obtain a non-driver's ID card:
  - U.S. Passport or Passport Card;
  - U.S. Birth certificate issued by a state or local government;
  - Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship (N-550, N-560, N-561, N-570);
  - Valid U.S. Employment Authorization Card with Valid Foreign Passport with U.S. Visa, I-94, or I-551 stamp. (The Visa, I-94, or I-551 can be expired)



## SOCIAL SERVICES

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR MEDICAID/SOCIAL SERVICES?

You can apply for Medicaid in any one of the following ways:

- ◆ Talk to your probation officer and he/she may assist with linking you to a Medicaid Navigator to apply for Services
- ◆ If releasing from an RRC or Prison, you can begin the application process 45 days in advance of release.
- ◆ Write, phone, or go to your local department of social services.

Pregnant women and children can apply at many clinics, hospitals, and provider offices. Call your local department of social services to find out where you can apply.

### FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** The Department of Agriculture gives nutrition assistance to eligible low-income individuals and families. In order to receive benefits, families must meet certain financial and non-financial criteria. (Note: If you are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), you are automatically eligible.) To learn eligibility criteria and how to apply in your state, go to: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/recipient/eligibility>

### INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** The Department of Health and Human Services gives employment services and cash assistance to low-income families. To learn eligibility criteria and how to apply in your state, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/help>

**Supplemental Social Security Insurance (SSI):** Provides money to low income individuals who are either age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Information can be found at : <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-eligibility-ussi.htm>

**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI):** Provides income to people with physical or mental problems that are severe enough to prevent them from working. Information can be found at: [www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/)

- Valid U.S. Employment Authorization Card with I-797 Notice of Action, commonly known as a receipt letter, and foreign passport with DHS certification. Permanent Resident Card I-551;
- Out of State REAL ID/Enhanced Driver License/Learner Permit/Non-Driver ID card;

Information can be found at: <https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/prove-identity-age-permitlicense>

- ◆ If you have outstanding fines or traffic tickets obtain your Abstract Driving Record at the DMV by completing the following:
  - fill-out a DMV MV-15 form
  - present a photocopy of a government issued ID, or your driver's license
  - submit a personal check or money order for \$10.00, payable to "Commissioner of Motor Vehicles"
- ◆ If your license is suspended due to child support, Legal Aid/Law NY may be able to assist you with lifting the suspension
- ◆ Address any issues with prior DWIs and suspensions that may have resulted

DMV forms found at: <https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/about-dmv-forms>

### NEW YORK STATE LEARNER'S PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Before you can get a license, you must apply for a learner permit at a DMV office and take the written test. You can prepare by reading the New York State Driver's Manual and taking practice tests.

<https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/drivers-manual-practice-tests>

- ◆ Complete a 5-hour Pre-licensing Course or a high school or college Driver Education Course.
- ◆ When you successfully complete the course, you will be given a Pre-licensing Course Certificate (MV-278)



### NEW YORK STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Use the DMV Road test system to schedule confirm, cancel or re-schedule a driving skills road test (including CDL and motorcycle) online or by phone.
- ◆ Bring the following documents to your road test:
  - a valid New York State learner permit; and
  - an original, unexpired Pre-Licensing Course Certificate (MV-278)

## HOW TO SIGN-UP FOR OTHER HEALTH INSURANCE

The Affordable Care Act has created free or low-cost health care coverage options and improved access to health care services.

- ◆ If you need low-cost health insurance, go to the **Health Insurance Marketplace** ([www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)). The website helps individuals find and sign up for health care coverage and those who qualify can also sign up for **Medicaid**. Upon release, you have a 60-day special enrollment period to sign up.
- ◆ You can also call **1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) 24/7** if you don't have a computer or need help. The phone line is closed Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.



## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Below is a list of various community outreach programs:

- ◆ **United Way:** United Way agencies are non-profit organizations offering services to individuals and families in need. Many United Way agencies give housing assistance or referrals to supportive housing, nursing homes, and other residential programs in your area. In most communities, you can find more information on their website at: [www.unitedway.org/find-your-united-way/](http://www.unitedway.org/find-your-united-way/)
- ◆ **Salvation Army:** The Salvation Army has a network of shelters and programs across the nation. When available, they may be able to give lodging, clothing, food, and a cash grant for the first 90 days after you are released from RRC placement. You can find more information on their website at: [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)
- ◆ **Goodwill Industries International, Inc.:** Goodwill helps individuals and families with education, skills training, and job placement services, as well as helps with supporting services such as transportation, housing, and clothing. You can find out about Goodwill services in your area by going to: [www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org)

## CHILD SUPPORT

Outstanding child support is a major barrier to reentry. Managing your child support obligation is critically important. If not resolved prior to incarceration, it is important to petition for a modification of a support order while incarcerated. Petitions are made to the Court in the County where your child support order was issued. If the child support orders are not modified, you will continue to be charged child support and interest will accrue while incarcerated.

You should obtain all active Child Support Orders, as this will assist you with any petitions that need to be filed. By being proactive, you may be eligible for a modification of a Court Order based on minimal earnings or no income. Legal Aid offices and/or LawNY are available to assist you with the following:

- ◆ **Modifying Child Support Orders while incarcerated/upon release**
- ◆ **Visitation Orders and petitions**
- ◆ **Custody/Legal Guardian issues and petitions**
- ◆ **Address parent/child Order of Protection**

**MYTH #1: Child support orders stop while I am incarcerated.**

- **FACT:** Even while incarcerated you continue to be responsible for any Court Orders. After your release, the support not paid while you were incarcerated becomes arrears that you owe. Arrears often causes the suspension of your driver's license and may lead to a money judgement against you.

**MYTH #2: The Court knows I am incarcerated, therefore, I do not need to do anything.**

- **FACT:** You need to properly petition the appropriate Court for a Child Support Modification. Simply writing a letter to the Court is not acceptable.



***"A good father is a source of inspiration and self-restraint. A good mother is the root of kindness and humbleness" — Dr T.P. Chia***

You're entitled to one free copy of your credit report every 12 months from three nationwide credit reporting companies. Order online: [annu-creditreport.com](http://annu-creditreport.com), the only authorized website for free credit reports, or call 1-877-322-8228. You will need to provide your name, address, social security number, and date of birth to verify your identity.

### Understanding your credit

Credit reports list your bill payment history, loans, current debt, and other financial information. Your work and residential history and if you were sued, arrested, or filed bankruptcy.

- ◆ Credit reports help lenders decide if they'll give you credit or approve a loan. The reports also helps determine what interest rate you will be charged. Employers, insurers, and rental property owners may look at your credit report.
- ◆ Credit reporting agencies (CRAs) collect and maintain information for your credit reports. Each CRA manages its own records and might not have information about all your accounts. Even though there are differences between their reports, no agency is more important than the others and the information each agency has must be accurate.

It's important to check your credit reports regularly to verify it's accurate, and that there are no opened fraudulent accounts in your name. If you find errors, write a letter disputing the error and include supporting documentation. If your dispute does not get resolved, you can file a complaint with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The credit reporting agencies (CRA) are Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.

### Filing Taxes

You are required to comply with all State and Federal regulations for filing taxes. If you have restitution or other financial obligations (i.e. child support), you will be required to submit documentation of filed tax returns. Filing taxes is beneficial to help establish credit, to apply for mortgages and bank loans, to apply for financial aid, and may be required for some jobs. For free tax preparation assistance, go to <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>



It is important to have original educational documents.

- ◆ If you earned your high school diploma before you were in prison, you can get a copy from the Department of Education for the state where you attended high school. Contact information can be found at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html>
- ◆ GED/High School Equivalency Diploma (HSE) certificates can be requested from the state's GED/HSE Administrator where you took the test which can be found at: <https://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/duplicate-diplomas-and-or-transcripts>
- ◆ If you got your GED/HSE while in prison, make sure you have your transcript before you are released. The Bureau does not keep or give GED/HSE transcripts post-release
- ◆ If you do not have your GED/HSE Diploma, the following testing will occur:
  - **TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education)** - Test for determining your reading and math grade levels.
- ◆ **Readiness Test** - Used to assess readiness to take the HSE test. New York uses the Test Assessing Secondary Completion TASC test as the HSE exam. The TASC test is a national test that measures national educational standards. NYSED has over 100 public test centers located across the state. To locate a test center use the following link: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-eligibility-ussi.htm/www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/hse-testing-maps>
- ◆ **LITERACY VOUNTEER OF NEW YORK**

Literacy Volunteers provides free tutoring to individuals throughout the district. Eligible students are assigned a volunteer tutor and meet two hours a week. The programs are individual to achieve the desired reading goal. Programs are available in each of the offices. You can learn more by visiting the following websites:



<https://literacybuffalo.org/>  
<https://literacyrochester.org/>

***“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten” BF Skinner***

## HIGHER EDUCATION/VOCATIONAL TRAINING

If you attended college and/or graduated from college, or completed a vocational training program, it is important that you maintain a copy of your transcripts. This will assist you with future enrollment and employment opportunities.

### Financial Aid

When you receive a grant or a scholarship, an institution gives you money to pay for your schooling. Usually the money is paid directly to the school. You do not have to pay anything back if you receive a scholarship or grant. The best way to find out about scholarships and grants is to contact the Financial Aid Office at the school you want to attend.

To get a loan for your education you will also have to demonstrate need. Getting loans is not as competitive as getting grants or scholarships. After you graduate you will have to pay back your loans and any applicable interest. For more information on financial aid go online to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa>.

### FAFSA — Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Completing the FAFSA form is the first step in the financial aid process. You can fill out the FAFSA form while still in prison. The Education unit or Transition Coordinator can help you access the FAFSA form.

### Student Loan Debt

Having a student loan in default also prevents the release of a new student loan, harming your ability to continue your education. If you're not sure about your student loans, verify your loan status.

Call the Department of Education at (800) 621-3115 or check the National Student Loan Data System website ( to make sure there is no loan for you on file check the following [.https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/2095](https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/2095)

- ◆ If you have a loan in default, there are several options available to you, including Income-Driven Repayment plans, to help you manage this. You can learn more by visiting the following website at: [https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/2097](https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/2097)

## REGISTERING FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE

All U.S. male citizens are required by law to register with Selective Services. Failure to register may disqualify you from any financial aid.

- ◆ To verify if registered with Selective Services: <https://www.sss.gov/>
- ◆ You must be 18 years old to register.
- ◆ If not registered, you can do so until the age of 26.
- ◆ If you did *not* register with Selective Service, and are a male over the age of 26, you must complete a request form for a status information letter. You must provide a detailed letter describing why you failed to register. The website for the letter can be found at: <https://www.sss.gov/Registration/Status-Information-Letter>
- **FINAL DECISION** – The final decision regarding your eligibility for the benefit that you are seeking will be made by the agency granting the benefit (for example, for student financial aid, this would be the school's financial aid officer). In some agencies, an appeals process is available.

## MILITARY

**Are you a veteran?** If yes, you may qualify for healthcare through the **Department of Veterans Affairs**. Information about your health benefits as a veteran can be found at: <https://www.va.gov/>

Local Veteran's Administration Offices assist with housing, transportation, medical, treatment services, disability hearings, and basic necessities.

At your local Veteran's Administration hospital or VA outreach center, you can request the following documents from your Official Military Personnel File:

- DD214
- DD215
- Report of Separation (Honorable, Dishonorable, Court Martialed)
- Other release papers
- Orders and endorsements
- Performance reports





## EMPLOYMENT/PREPARING FOR THE JOB MARKET

There are various community and temporary agencies that can assist with employment services.

### **Create an Email Address**

- ◆ Many websites (for example [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com) or [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)) allow you to set-up a free email account. To be professional, use your first name and last name, or some combination of your initials. Write it down to remember.

### **Obtain a copy of Your Background Check/Rap Sheet**

- ◆ Request a copy of your criminal history (rap sheet) with assistance from local agency. If there are mistakes, you can receive assistance from Legal Aid/LawNY.
- ◆ Request a FBI check. The cost is \$18 and there is a waiver of the fee if you can prove indigence. <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks>
- ◆ **Obtain a Credit Check**
- ◆ The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) requires several nationwide companies to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months.

### **Prepare A Resume**

- ◆ Meet with your officer to discuss local agencies available to assist with completion of a resume. Each city has a one stop agency that assists with resumes, vocational grants and job placement. (<https://www.careeronestop.org/>)
- ◆ To enhance your resume: perform volunteer work, advance your education, participate in job readiness programs.

## INCENTIVES FOR EMPLOYERS TO HIRE INDIVIDUALS WITH FELONY CONVICTIONS

### **Work Opportunity Tax Credit**

- ◆ Employers that hire individuals with felony convictions, are entitled to a federal tax credit is up to **\$2,400** for each new hire. If you are a disabled veteran, employers are entitled to a tax credit up to **\$9,600**.
- ◆ Visit this website for more information: <https://www.labor.ny.gov/home/>

### **New York State Federal Bonding Program**

- ◆ This program is a Fidelity Bond that protects employers in case of any loss of money/property loss due to employee dishonesty.
- ◆ The bond is given to employers for six months free-of-charge and is an incentive to hire individuals with felony convictions.
- ◆ A total of \$5,000 bond coverage is usually issued.
- ◆ To apply, information is available at: <https://www.labor.ny.gov/businessservices/services/fbp.shtm>

## PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW



Research the company online to gather information you can use during the interview.

The probation office has various documents to assist with the interview process. Please ask your officer for assistance.

- ◆ Wear appropriate attire
- ◆ Make sure you are groomed and have a minimal odor of fragrance in case interviewer is allergic to perfumes/colognes
- ◆ Bring your resume and two forms of identification
- ◆ Bring paper & pen to interview in case you want to note something during/after
- ◆ Make sure you have a reliable transportation to the interview;
- ◆ Arrive at least 15 minutes early.



## INTERVIEW

- ◆ Introduce yourself to the receptionist/person greeting you.
- ◆ Keep your answers brief and job related.
- ◆ Maintain eye contact and have a firm hand shake, good posture.

### **COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

- ◆ Tell me about yourself?
- ◆ Why are you interested in working for the company?
- ◆ Tell me about your education?
- ◆ Strengths/Weaknesses?
- ◆ Tell me about a conflict you had in the past at a job and how it was resolved?
- ◆ Where do you see yourself in three years?

### STEPS TO ANSWERING CRIMINAL HISTORY QUESTION

- ◆ Accept responsibility for what you did and take ownership/responsibility for behavior. Begin statements with "I".
- ◆ Highlight the positive changes that have occurred since your conviction, especially if there is a significant gap in your work history.
- ◆ What is different now?
- ◆ Include positive vocational programs you completed.
- ◆ Talk about what you learned and reassure your employer that you have changed your life for the better.

### END OF INTERVIEW

- ◆ Ask follow up questions, such as:
  - Is there any formal training?
  - Why is the position open?
  - What are the day to day responsibilities?
  - What do you like most about the company?
  - When will you be making a decision?
- ◆ Politely request the name/phone number and/or email address for contact person.
- ◆ Send a follow-up email thanking the staff for the interview and reiterate your interest in the job.



## SERVICE LINK STOP (SLS)

**STOP HERE, GO ANYWHERE. FIND YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS.**

Service Link Stop (SLS) connects justice involved community members to a comprehensive array of services—paving their way toward a brighter future aligned with their personal goals. We envision a community where individuals reentering society are empowered, equipped, and embraced so opportunities can be achieved.



The SLS provides the following services: Employment Assistance, Education Services, Family Supports, Peer Supports, Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment Linkages, Civil Legal Services, Insurance/Medicaid Assistance, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Linkages, Physical Health Linkages and a variety of additional supports. We have over 40 agencies that are working within the SLS to support individuals reentering society. There are also a variety of resource materials on hand that can be provided.

The SLS has phones available onsite for use, provides coffee/snacks, and offers computer/WiFi access to best connect the individual to needed services.

## SERVICE LINK STOP COMMUNITY PARTNERS

120 West Eagle St.  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The following are some of the agencies that will be onsite at varying times:

Back to Basics: <https://www.back2basicsministries.org/>

Best Self Behavioral Health: <https://www.bestselfwny.org/>

Blue Cross Blue Shield of WNY (BCBS): <https://www.bcbswny.com/>

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO): <https://www.ceoworks.org/>

Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc.: <https://www.chcb.net/>

Horizon Health Services: <https://www.horizon-health.org/>

Jewish Family Services: <https://www.jfsbuffalo.org/>

Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo: <https://www.legalaidbuffalo.org/>

Pathstone: <https://www.pathstone.org/>

Spectrum Human Services: <https://www.shswny.org/>

### FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY:

ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER BUFFALO

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

## COMMON QUESTIONS

### **Will I have to report to my probation officer or will they come to me?**



There are many times when your probation officer will make contact with you at your residence or any other locations in the community. However, you will also be required to report on occasion to the U.S. Probation Office.

The U.S. Probation Office for the Western District of New York has two offices: one in Buffalo and the other in Rochester. In most cases, you are assigned to the office closest to where you reside.

If you have difficulty getting to the office, plan ahead. Your probation officer will often work with you and try to accommodate other limitations within reason.

### **What kind of help or referrals will my probation officer give me?**

Your probation officer wants you to succeed on supervision. Your probation officer can assist with resources relating to drug treatment, mental health treatment, child support, job training, and more. You just need to ask for the help.

### **If I need treatment, whether mental health, drug and alcohol, gambling or other treatment, who will pay for that?**

If you are privately insured or receive Medicaid, then the insurance provider may cover the costs of services.

### **How often do I have to see my probation officer?**

The frequency of contacts with your probation officer depends on your progress, risk level, and needs. A standard condition of supervision states, "You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere..."

If you are required to comply with drug and/or alcohol testing, home contacts are in addition to any urinalysis testing.

### **When is restitution due?**

Restitution is due and payable immediately upon entry of your judgment, regardless of whether you are incarcerated. Any inability to pay restitution must be discussed with your Probation Officer.

### Can I transfer my supervised release to another state?

Transfer of jurisdiction for the purpose of supervision requires the approval of both the Probation Office in the Western District of New York, and the Probation Office in the state to which you wish to transfer.

If you are requesting a transfer while incarcerated, the BOP will help you complete and send a request packet to your desired district. You must establish that you have significant familial ties to the district, stable housing, and potential employment. The proposed district will complete a pre-transfer investigation. Once completed, your request will either be accepted or denied. If accepted, you will be granted the transfer and release to that district. If denied, you will be required to release to the district where you were sentenced.

If you wish to request a transfer to another jurisdiction after you are released, you should speak directly with your probation officer, who can advise you as to the process for requesting a transfer.

### Can I travel outside the district?

Generally, travel is restricted to 17 counties in the Western District of New York.



Travel outside of the restricted area requires the prior approval of the probation officer and/or the court.

No travel will be approved during the first 60 days of supervision.

A written request for travel must be submitted to the U.S. Probation Office 10 days prior to your date of travel.

Verbal or signed permission must be granted from the probation officer before you can travel outside of this restricted geographical area.

For international travel for any purpose, you will need to submit a request to travel at least one month prior to your anticipated trip. This requires the approval of the sentencing judge.

There may be extenuating circumstances that arise, which should be discussed with your officer.

### What if I cannot pay my restitution?

If you have restitution or other financial obligations, you will be expected to complete a financial statement form, which will be given to you by either the Probation Office or the U.S. Attorney's Office. This form will be used to evaluate your finances and your ability to maintain your required payment obligation.

Most judgments set forth a minimum payment obligation. During a term of supervision, the obligation is typically no less than 10% of your gross monthly earnings. However, the schedule of payments is set by the Court at the time of sentencing.

### Can I associate with a family member who has a felony?

Most judgments include a condition prohibiting such contact without first getting the permission of the probation officer.

In general, the Probation Office encourages prosocial contact and may make an exception to the no-contact condition, if deemed appropriate and if it does not otherwise put either of you at risk for violation behavior.

### When can I vote again?

- ◆ A person convicted of a federal offense who is on probation or supervised release, is eligible to vote.
- ◆ If you are incarcerated, you cannot vote.
- ◆ If you are presently under New York State Parole or Federal Parole supervision, the following applies in order to vote:
- ◆ You must be pardoned or restored to the rights of citizenship by the President of the United States; or
- ◆ Your maximum sentence of imprisonment must have expired.





***We must be the change we wish to see.” Mahatma Gandhi***



***Buffalo Office:  
Robert H. Jackson United States Courthouse  
2 Niagara Square  
Buffalo, New York 14202-3350  
Telephone: (716) 551-4241***

***Rochester Office:  
Federal Building Room 1200  
100 State Street  
Rochester, New York 14614  
Telephone: (585) 666-5901***

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