



## What should I be aware of (legally) when I am incarcerated?

### Your rights and responsibilities

You have certain rights guaranteed to them while in prison, including the right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment, the right to medical care, the right to religious practices, and the right to access the courts. You also have responsibilities to follow prison rules and regulations.

### Legal Representation

You should be aware of their right to legal representation. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may have the right to a court-appointed lawyer for certain legal matters.

### Due Process

You have to understand the concept of due process and know how it applies to disciplinary proceedings or any potential parole or release hearings.

### Grievance Procedures

Prisons typically have grievance procedures that will allow you to file complaints about issues such as mistreatment, inadequate conditions, or violation of your rights. Knowing and utilizing these procedures can help you address concerns while in prison.

### Visitation and Communication

You should understand the rules and regulations regarding visitation, mail correspondence, and phone calls with family and friends.

### Personal Property and Money

You should know the rules regarding personal property, what items are allowed in your cell phone (if applicable), and the procedures for handling and accessing money while incarcerated.

### Safety and Security

It is essential to understand the security measures in place and the consequences of engaging in activities that may compromise your safety of or others surrounding you..



### **Sentence Information**

You should be aware of your sentence length, parole eligibility, and any possible opportunities for early release or parole.

### **Educational and Vocational Programs**

Many prisons offer educational and vocational programs that can help you develop skills and prepare for life after release. You should know what opportunities are available to you.

### **Rules for Early Release**

Understanding the requirements for parole, probation, or any early release programs can help you plan for their future and work towards rehabilitation.

### **Legal Mail**

You often have the right to send and receive legal mail without it being opened or read by prison staff.

### **Confidentiality and Safety Concerns**

You should be aware of your right to report safety concerns or incidents without fear of retaliation.



It is crucial for you to familiarize yourself with the prison's rules and regulations and seek legal advice if you have any questions or concerns about your rights while incarcerated.

Prisons often have resources such as legal aid clinics or ombudsmen who can provide you guidance and support on legal matters. Make sure to ask the right questions and get all the information you need.



## What should I be aware of (legally) when I preparing to be released?

It's essential for you to be proactive in understanding and complying with your legal obligations.

Staying informed and seeking support from appropriate resources can help you succeed and reintegrate smoothly and avoid potential legal pitfalls.

When reintegrating into society, you should be aware of several legal aspects and consequences to ensure a smooth transition and compliance with the law. Here are some key points for them to consider:

### Probation or Parole Terms

If you are on probation or parole, you must fully understand the terms and conditions of your supervision. This may include check-in regularly with a probation or parole officer, following restricted travel rules, and complying with specific rules or prohibitions that you will have to respect.

### Reporting Requirements

You may be required to register as a sex offender or provide other information to law enforcement agencies. You will have to know the rules and frequency of reporting to avoid further legal issues.

### Employment Restrictions

You might be restricted to work in specific industries or professions. It is essential to know if there are any limitations on your employment options and disclose your criminal history when required by law.

### Housing Restrictions

Some jurisdictions have restrictions on where you can live, especially if you are on probation or parole. Understanding these restrictions is crucial to avoid potential violations.

### Firearm and Weapon Restrictions

You are generally prohibited from owning or possessing firearms and other weapons. Understanding these restrictions is essential to avoid serious legal consequences.

### Travel Restrictions

You may have limitations on international travel, especially if your offense is related to certain crimes like drug trafficking. Checking travel restrictions beforehand can prevent legal issues.



# What should I be aware of (legally) when I preparing to be released?

## Financial Obligations

Make sure that any fines, restitution, or other financial obligations resulting from the conviction are addressed and paid on time.

## Drug and Alcohol Testing

You may be subject to random drug or alcohol testing as part of your probation or parole. Staying drug and alcohol-free is essential to avoid violations.

## Communication with Authorities

You should maintain open and honest communication with your probation or parole officer and follow their advice and guidance.

## Expungement and Pardon Options

Depending on the jurisdiction and the nature of the offense, you may explore options for expungement or pardon to clear your criminal record, which can significantly improve your chances of successful reintegration.

## Legal Rights

It is crucial for you to know their legal rights, including the right to an attorney and protections against discrimination in housing and employment due to your criminal history.

## Community Resources

Seek out community resources and support services that can provide you assistance with housing, employment, counseling, and other aspects of reintegration.



By being well-informed about the legal aspects and consequences of your past convictions, you can take proactive steps to comply with the law and make positive strides toward a successful reintegration into society.

Seeking legal advice or guidance from reentry programs can be immensely helpful during this process.