

**Post-Conviction Supervision Information
U. S. Probation & Pretrial Office
Southern District of Mississippi**

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Reentry Information
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Introduction & General Information

The information contained within this handout is based on the supervision standards of the U. S. Probation & Pretrial Office for the Southern District of Mississippi. Please note if you are being released to a different district, you may need to clarify any questions you have regarding your supervision with a representative of that district.

You are required to report in person to the Probation Office in the district to which you are released within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. This includes release from a Residential Re-Entry Center or Halfway House. Failure to report within 72 hours will be a violation. Also, remember to bring your Notice of Release and Arrival paperwork from the Bureau of Prisons.

Mandatory Conditions of Supervision

The defendant shall not commit another federal, state or local crime.

The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.

The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance.

Unless suspended by the court, the defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of placement on probation or supervised release and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.

The defendant shall not possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon. (All Felonies-Misdemeanor Domestic Violence)

The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer.

If applicable, the defendant shall comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16901) as directed by the probation officer, the bureau of prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which he or she resides, works, is a student, or was convicted of qualifying offense.

If applicable, the defendant shall participate in an approved program for domestic violence.

If judgment and commitment order imposes a fine or restitution, it is a mandatory condition of release that defendant pay in accordance with the schedule of payments sheet of the judgment.

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Standard Conditions of Supervision

1. ***The defendant shall not leave the judicial district without the permission of the court or probation office.*** Your district may not include the entire state of residence. For example, Mississippi is made up of two districts. You will need to gain permission to travel to another district although it may be located within the same state you reside. Permission to travel outside the district will be provided in written form, unless your officer determines that extraordinary conditions exist, and he or she elects to give you verbal permission to travel.
2. ***The defendant shall report to the probation officer in a manner and frequency directed by the Court or the probation officer.*** You may be required to submit a monthly report form by mail, email, or KIOSK. The easiest way to file a monthly report is through our National electronic reporting system which is used through a defendant's email address and/or IP address. Do not skip any of the sections of the form and fill out each one completely and accurately.
3. **The defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer.** Honesty is always the best policy. Your probation officer has your best interest in mind and will give you instructions and advice for a successful completion of supervision.
4. **The defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities.** If you have child support obligations to address, take care of these upon your release. The earlier you talk with the clerk of court handling your payments, the more likely they will be to work with you. In Mississippi, your driver's license may be suspended for failure to pay child support.
5. **The defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation, unless excused by the probation officer for Schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons.** Many individuals find that their transition from incarceration to the community is easier when they obtain employment. Remember it is important to work on and obtain your GED, if needed, take advantage of Vocational Technical Classes, and College Courses that help you find viable employment. Your training should be related to an employment field that will provide you the best opportunities for employment as a convicted felon. For example, in Jackson, Plumbing, Basic Electrical, Carpentry, food service (ServSafe), and janitorial services are employment fields that offenders can find employment.
6. **The defendant shall notify the probation officer at least 10 days prior to any change in residence or employment.** Your probation officer must conduct an investigation prior to any change in your residence or employment. If your new place or job appears to be a negative environment, your officer will not allow you to move or change employment.
7. **The defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any controlled substance or any paraphernalia related to any controlled substances, except as prescribed by a physician.** Alcohol use should be limited and you should be able to pass a sobriety test during and after drinking. Remember if you have a substance abuse treatment special condition, drinking alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

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Standard Conditions of Supervision Continued

8. **The defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered.** It is your responsibility to know everything about where you hang out. Don't let a brief visit to an unknown location turn into a violation. The Police show up and run your name in the national criminal information system.
9. **The defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony, unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer.** Again, know your friends, family and associations' backgrounds. If you don't know, ask. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to know who you are hanging around.
10. **The defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view of the probation officer.** Your officer will try to be as respectful as possible of your time, your family, and your co-workers. We always respect your working environment and try to limit our contacts at work. If your officer needs to speak with you, they may visit you during the evening and night time hours at any place they may find you. Any contraband observed in plain view will be taken into evidence and investigated for possible violations.
11. **The defendant shall notify the probation officer within seventy-two hours of being arrested or Or questioned by a law enforcement officer.** It would be better for you to tell your probation officer about law enforcement contact first, before he receives a phone call or an email alert from the national system. If you have contact with any officer in an official capacity, it is your responsibility to report it to your probation officer.
12. **The defendant shall not enter into any agreement to act an informer or a special agent of a law Enforcement agency without the permission of the court.** You must have permission from your Sentencing judge prior to doing any type of undercover, informant or special agent work for any law enforcement agencies. If you do not have permission from the court, it will be a violation.
13. **As directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify 3rd parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics and shall permit the probation officer to make such notification and confirm compliance.** You will be required to notify anyone that may be at risk within your personal and professional life. For example, if you have a history of criminal domestic violence, anyone you are currently in a relationship with, or may enter into a relationship with in the future, will be notified. Your probation officer will determine any risk by evaluating your history and other background information. 3rd party risk notification may include an employer, if a reasonable risk is noted.

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Special Conditions of Supervision

Special conditions of supervision are those conditions that the Court may order in addition to the standard conditions. These conditions may differ between districts. Special conditions are unique to each defendant, although many defendants may have the same special conditions. For example, substance abuse treatment and testing. Special conditions vary on each case depending on risk and need.

Some examples of special conditions are as follows:

1. **Drug Treatment/Urinalysis:** must submit to treatment on an outpatient or inpatient basis as directed by the U. S. Probation Officer. Refrain from the illegal possession and/or use of drugs and shall submit to urinalysis or other forms of testing to ensure compliance.
2. **Alcohol Treatment:** refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages and submit to testing to ensure compliance. Defendant must submit to evaluation and treatment as directed by the U. S. Probation Officer.
3. **Mental Health Treatment:** participate in a mental health program for evaluation and/or treatment and remain in treatment until satisfactorily discharged.
4. **Community Confinement:** shall be confined to residence for a (court imposed period) of months in a community corrections center/halfway house or similar residential facility and pay subsistence as required by the program and follow the rules of the facility.
5. **Home Confinement:** shall be confined to residence for a (court imposed) period of months, be required to be at his or her residence at all times except during such times specifically authorized by the U. S. Probation Office. Shall wear an electronic monitoring device and may be required to pay costs.
6. **Financial Disclosure:** provide full disclosure of financial records to include yearly income tax returns upon the request of the U. S. Probation Officer.
7. **No New Debt:** be prohibited from incurring any new credit charges or opening additional lines of credit without the approval of the probation office. Defendant shall not liquidate interest in any assets unless it is in direct service of a fine and/or restitution obligation.
8. **Internal Revenue Service:** cooperate with the IRS by filing all delinquent or amended returns (court will impose time limits).
9. **Computer Access Denial:** not possess, procure, purchase or otherwise obtain access to any form of computer network, bulletin board, internet, or exchange format involving computers unless specifically approved by the U. S. Probation Officer.

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Some examples of special conditions continued:

10. **Computer Access Monitoring:** submit to an initial inspection and to any unannounced examination of computer equipment, and allow the installation of any hardware or software systems which monitor computer use as determined by the U. S. Probation Officer.
11. **Community Service:** contribute (court imposed) hours of community service work. Such service shall be without compensation and the work place must be approved by the U. S. Probation Officer.
12. **Polygraph:** submit to initial and follow-up polygraphs.
13. **No Contact with Minors:** no contact with children of either sex under the age of 18.
14. **Certain Occupational Restrictions:** this will vary from State to State.
15. **Participate in Vocational Training**

Reentry Preparation

Listed above are conditions which are used by the court to set boundaries regarding your supervised release. These conditions are used to help you transition from incarceration to the community. The conditions are based upon your risk and your needs.

The road to Re-Entry begins now. When you are in a car, the rear view mirror is smaller so that we can glance at the past, but the windshield is larger and open, so that we can focus our attention to what is ahead. ***You don't want to get stuck on what is the rear view mirror.***

When does Reentry Begin?

Reentry defined: Reentry is a process of change or starting over. It has a beginning point but is a process toward a successful, rewarding, crime free lifestyle. We all continue to change and hopefully move forward and progress towards our goals.

You are at the turning point right now to make choices that can affect your future.

What is Your Role in Reentry:

Change begins with you. You are the expert on you. Everyone is capable of change. The question is, "are you happy with where you are now?" Can you look back and determine what happened and what needs to change? If you can, this is a starting point for you.

Your role is to engage the process, take advantage of programming opportunities and be responsible for securing resources prior to release to promote and support self-sufficiency.

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Your Attitude: *The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. Attitude will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude....I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes. ~ by Charles Swindoll*

What Are the Main Reasons You Return to Prison?

1. **Thinking:** Our thinking sets us up for success and failure. Some of it is so entrenched that it is almost automatic. Can anyone give me an example of a thinking error or criminal thinking? How would you change your thinking or self-talk? What programs are available to assist in this area.
2. **Peers:** We are who we associate with for the good and also for the bad. Never make someone a priority for you when you are only an option for them. You can't blame everything on your peers as you made the choice to associate with them. How do you change your peers? You have to think for yourself. Don't associate with those peers that are using drugs, breaking the rules, or continue criminal conduct. Peers can be a negative influence as well as a positive influence in your life.

Developing Program Goals

Short Term: Short term goals are goals or objectives that are easy to accomplish within several weeks to a month. An example is, "I will talk to my counselor today about enrolling in the GED Program". Talking with your case manager about Vocational Training offered. You may send a letter to the most positive person that you know to request assistance in locating a positive mentor upon your release. You can identify all your skills to date and talking with your case manager or correctional counselor about your vocation interests.

Long Term: Long term goals may take longer to complete and could include a combination of short term goals. For example, you may complete your GED within 1 to 2 years. My next goal could be vocational training in welding, HVAC, food service..etc....

S.M.A.R.T. GOALS

- S. **Specific Goal-** make a specific educational or vocational goal.
- M. **Measurable-** measure your progress and adjust as needed.
- A. **Attainable-** make sure it is a goal you can obtain.
- R. **Realistic-** make sure your goal will benefit you in reentry. An educational or vocational skill you can use.
- T. **Timely-** make sure you can complete your goal within a set time frame.

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Specific- a specific goal has a much greater chance of being accomplished than a general goal. To set a specific goal you must answer the six "W" questions: who- who is involved; what- what do I want to accomplish; where- where is my location; when- establish a workable time frame; which- identify requirements and constraints; why- specific reasons, purpose or benefits of accomplishing the goal.

Measurable- when you measure your progress, you stay on track, reach your target dates.

Attainable- When you identify goals that are most important to you, you begin to figure out ways you can make them come true. You develop the attitudes, abilities, skills, and financial capacity to reach them.

Realistic- you are the only one who can decide just how realistic a goal can be. You may seek advice from your case manager or unit team members.

Timely- make a time frame, one year from today.

The BOP uses the Inmate Skills Development System (ISDS) to assess skill deficits and also to track progress on a continual basis. When you discuss the ISDS, use the process don't just rush over your goals and progress. Invest yourself in your goals for reentry.

Who is responsible for developing and working your plan in BOP? You are! No one is going to do it for you.

Don't waste time in BOP- failure to participate and complete programs can seriously hinder your successful reentry back to the community. For example, an inmate who failed to obtain his or her GED while in BOP custody will have a difficult time obtaining employment during the reentry process.

GED/Education/Vocational Technical Skills/Apprenticeships

Why is a GED and Education so important?

1. Each year of education adds about \$10,000.00 a year to an individual's potential income.
2. A high school graduate on average earns \$260,000 more over a life time than a drop out.
3. Unemployment rate for individuals with a four year degree is 4.9%; Some college is 8.3%; High School graduates with no college is 10.6%; and those with less than a high school diploma at 14.7%.

Offenders who attempt to earn a GED or take post-secondary course work while in prison have lower rates of recidivism. Today, more jobs are demanding post-secondary education degrees and certificates. Your participation in programming will help you after release and will increase your opportunities for employment and increase the potential for higher wages in the future. Make sure that you keep track of your progress and maintain your certificates. For example, ServSafe certification. You should have an employment readiness file folder made up to keep your Resume, Certificates, Transcripts, and Employment References. Remember your employment experiences in BOP do count as work experience. *"It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one, than to have an opportunity and not be prepared."*~ Whitney M. young, Jr.

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Employment

Mississippi WIN: WIN- Workforce Investment Network. Get registered with WIN as soon as possible. WIN will also help you with any Vocational Training or job skills training that are in demand. The WIN Centers will help screen and refer individuals to potential employers.

WOTC: Work Opportunity Tax Credit. Employers can get a tax credit of up to \$2,400.00 and if you are a veteran, the credit can be even more. The Mississippi WIN Job Centers can provide additional information.

Federal Bonding Program: This is a fidelity bond insurance coverage that is offered free of charge. Covers high monetary risk individuals who meet a specific criteria. Should a theft or loss of property occur, the employer would be paid up to a certain amount. Details can be obtained from the Mississippi WIN Job Centers.

Future employers are interested in your completion of BOP goals. For example, RDAP, GED, Vocational Training in a specific area.

Employment Documents: You need your social security card, driver's license and/or State issued identification card, birth certificate, resume, certificates of completion- high school diploma, copy of your GED, and transcripts from college.

Many times an employer will look for a person who is ready to work, not someone who is just looking for a job.

Job Readiness- How can you prove that you are ready to work?

1. Being on time
2. Reliable transportation
3. Able to follow directions
4. Dress appropriately
5. Displays a good work ethic: self-directed, complete tasks
6. Good attitude
7. Gets along well with others

Has your conduct in BOP been a reflection of your job readiness? You are responsible for those outside factors that may hinder your readiness for work. For example, your peer associations and your friends who do not work.

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Answering the Felony Question:

A question that most offenders and ex-offenders face often appears on an application form or in the job interview: "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?" "If yes, give details." Do not lie, lying will just delay the inevitable; the employer will most likely find out about your conviction during a background check. Your best course of action would be to answer yes and inform the employer that you will provide details at the interview.

Once you get to the interview, the interviewer may ask about your conviction. This is the time to follow "The 3 R's": **Responsibility, Regret, and Redemption.**

1. **Responsibility:** Take responsibility for your actions. Give a very brief overview of what happened to you- the crime, the conviction, and the outcome. You should be able to do this in less than a minute. If your answer generates more follow-up questions, then answer truthfully and briefly.
2. **Regret:** Honestly express being sorry about what you did. But then quickly move to the third "R".
3. **Redemption:** Focus on how you have changed your life for the better because of this experience. Remember, the employer wants to hire your future, not your past.

Employers are like many other people: sympathetic to those who have made mistakes but who are willing to take responsibility and make sincere efforts to change their lives. It's part of our culture of forgiveness, redemption, and self-transformation.

Job search strategies: start working with BOP Reentry now on identifying your job skills and how those skills relate to the job market where you intend to release. Networking with family and positive friends in your release area can really help you search for viable employment opportunities.

Barriers to Reentry: a barrier is any problem, real or perceived, that is an obstacle to reaching your goals. Barriers can be defined in many different ways.

Personal Barriers: could be your attitude toward life in general; educational level; learning disability; physical disability; substance abuse issues; and burned bridges with family and friends.

Correctional Barriers: barriers within the institution in regard to classes, Vocational Training, RDAP.

Legal Barriers: barriers based upon your legal status. Detainers, and pending charges.

Action Plan: define your short and long term goals for your reentry. Make sure pending charges are resolved. Obtain and/or locate your identification information, social security card, DL, birth certificate. Take advantage of programming opportunities in BOP, RDAP, Thinking For a Change, MRT, GED. Most of all become self-aware of your attitude. Your attitude defines who you are and those you hand around.