

Help if you have a conviction or are serving a prison or community sentence

jobcentreplus

Part of the Department for Work and Pensions



Help and information about jobs and benefits from Jobcentre Plus if you have a conviction or are serving a prison or community sentence

Jobcentre Plus advisers can offer you a wide range of advice and support on work, benefits, skills and training.

If you are in prison, or have just been released

If you were working before going to prison, our advisers may be able to ask your employer whether you can keep your job and go back to it on release. This will depend on the length of your sentence.

If you are near the end of your sentence, our advisers can tell you about getting back to work soon and any benefits or other financial help that may be available. They can also book you a 'new jobseeker's interview' appointment at a Jobcentre to make a new claim for Jobseeker's Allowance.

Help with finding work for all offenders and ex-offenders

When you are looking for work and claiming benefits, please help us by saying if you:

- are currently serving a community sentence,
- have a conviction that may affect your chances of finding work, or
- have just been released from prison.

This will not affect your benefit claim but will make it easier for us to tell you about any extra help that may be available. You can tell us at your new jobseeker interview or any time during your claim.

We can help you find a new job and look at any skills or training you need to find and stay in work. Potential employers may require you to tell them about any criminal convictions. Depending on the type of job, you may have to tell them even if the law normally regards your conviction as 'spent' (in other words, the time has passed when you have to disclose it). We can help you with general information about how to handle this when applying for jobs or attending interviews.

Help with benefits and financial support

Jobcentre Plus advisers help you to claim the benefits you are entitled to while looking for work. We can also provide advice on financial support that you and your family may be able to claim, including tax credits, when you start work.

If you and your family have problems with money or debt, we can offer you access to specialist help.

If you have children, we can tell you about the benefits and credits you may get while you are working. We can also put you in touch with people in your area who provide affordable childcare.

We will make sure you are able to meet a personal adviser at times that fit in with your commitments.

Help if you have a disability or health condition

Jobcentre Plus has specialist advisers who can help if you have a disability or health condition that affects the sort of job you can do. We can provide details of suitable jobs and explain more about specialist disability employment support in your area. This includes support at work to help you do your new job.

Help with coping with drug or alcohol problems

If you need help with drug or alcohol problems, your adviser can tell you about the support available in your area.

Contact details

Useful telephone numbers and further information:

You can find out more about disclosing criminal records and other practical resettlement matters such as housing, employment and benefits. Anyone, including employers, can contact:

Nacro (in England and Wales)

Call Nacro on **0800 0181 259** (for ex-offenders and their families and friends only) or **020 7840 6464** (open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm), or email **helpline@nacro.org.uk**

Sacro (in Scotland)

Sacro offers advice and signposting on general resettlement matters such as housing, health and benefits. Contact Sacro's Throughcare service on **0131 622 7500** (Edinburgh) or **0141 248 1763** (Glasgow).

For help on disclosing criminal convictions contact: Apex Scotland on **01382 525031** (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm) or Disclosure Scotland on **0870 609 6006**.

Call charges

Charges were correct as of the date on the back of this leaflet.

Calls to **0800** numbers are free from BT land lines but you may have to pay if you use another phone company, a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Calls to **0870** numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 9p a minute with a 12p call set-up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company, a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure the leaflet is correct as of March 2011. Some of the information may be oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

www.direct.gov.uk

Jobcentre Plus is committed to applying the principles of equal opportunities in its programmes and services.

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