THE #FKLM FAMILY BLUEPRINT

National Reentry Information and Programs

Legal & Policy Literacy · Reentry & Family Preparation

A federally supported hub of reentry research, programs, and state-level resources.

IN THIS GUIDE

- What the National Reentry Resource Center is
- What it is useful for
- What it cannot do
- Using it alongside local help
- Try it: a real example
- Scripts you can use
- Your checklist

A free guide from My Fairy GodParents — for youth impacted by parental incarceration, justice-impacted youth, and the caregivers and families who support them.
myfairygodparents.org/resources/family-blueprint

Print, write on it, and share it with the people helping your family.

National Reentry Information and Programs

Legal & Policy Literacy · Reentry & Family Preparation

> *A federally supported hub of reentry research, programs, and state-level resources.*

THE DIFFERENCE THIS MAKES

Reentry involves federal, state, county, and facility-level rules that overlap and sometimes conflict, and no single family member is expected to know all of it. The National Reentry Resource Center exists precisely because this landscape is too fragmented for any one person to navigate from memory, and it functions as a clearinghouse rather than a caseworker for any individual family.

Knowing that a resource like this exists changes how a family searches for help. Instead of trying to reinvent research that has already been done — what works in job placement programs, what housing options exist for people with records, what other states have tried — a family can go to a source built to have already organized that information.

This lesson explains what the center is, what it is useful for, and just as importantly what it cannot do: it is not a substitute for a state agency, a local reentry program, or a supervising officer when it comes to what applies to one specific person's case.

WHAT THE NATIONAL REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER IS

The National Reentry Resource Center is a federally supported clearinghouse that gathers research, training materials, and program information related to reentry from incarceration, primarily for the professionals and organizations that run reentry programs, but with a substantial amount of material useful to families directly.

It is not a hotline for individual case questions and it does not represent any single state's rules. Its value is breadth: it aggregates what is known across the country about what helps people succeed after release, rather than speaking for any one jurisdiction's specific requirements.

WHAT IT IS USEFUL FOR

It is a strong starting point for understanding categories of reentry support that exist nationally — employment programs, housing initiatives, family reunification approaches, and reentry councils — so a family knows what kinds of programs to look for locally.

It maintains directories and links to state and local reentry resources in many places, which can shortcut the

search for what exists in a specific county, though coverage varies and a local 211 call or reentry organization often fills in what the center's directory does not have.

Its research and reports can also be useful context for a family trying to understand why a process is slow or complicated — the barriers to housing, employment, or identification that returning citizens face are well documented and not particular to any one family's situation.

+ WHAT IT CANNOT DO

It cannot tell a family what a specific person's supervision conditions are, what a specific parole or probation office requires, or how a specific state's benefits rules apply. Those answers come from the supervising officer, the relevant state or county agency, or a local reentry program working the actual case.

It also is not a crisis line or an emergency service. If a family needs urgent help — housing about to lapse, a missed reporting deadline, a benefits gap — the faster path is the local reentry organization, 211, or the supervising officer directly, not a national clearinghouse.

+ USING IT ALONGSIDE LOCAL HELP

Think of the center as the layer above local help, not a replacement for it: it can tell a family what generally exists and point toward directories, while a local reentry organization or agency tells the family what applies where they live.

A reasonable approach is to use the center's material to walk into a local conversation better informed — knowing the right questions to ask a reentry program, a parole officer, or a benefits office — rather than expecting the center itself to answer those questions directly.

Bookmark it as a reference to return to over the course of reentry, since needs shift over months, and the categories of support relevant in week one look different from the ones relevant in month six.

+ USING A NATIONAL RESOURCE TO ASK A BETTER LOCAL QUESTION

A caregiver whose son was about to be released spent an evening reading through the National Reentry Resource Center's material on employment programs for people with records, mostly to understand what generally exists across the country.

That reading didn't tell her what was available in her county, but it gave her the vocabulary — terms like transitional employment and reentry-friendly employer networks — to ask her local reentry organization a sharper question than "can you help him find a job."

The local organization turned out to run exactly that kind of program locally. She said afterward that the national resource hadn't solved anything by itself, but it had told her what to ask for.

+ WORDS YOU CAN USE

Using the center's material to prep for a local conversation

"I've read that transitional employment and reentry-friendly employer programs are common approaches nationally. Do you run anything like that here, or know who does?"

Clarifying with a local program what applies specifically

"I've found some general information about reentry supports nationally, but I want to know what's actually available to us in this county. Can you tell me what programs exist locally and how we'd apply?"

Redirecting a supervision question to the right authority

For use with anyone, including well-meaning family, offering guesses about supervision rules.

"I appreciate you looking into this, but conditions vary a lot by state and even by officer. I'd rather ask [name]'s supervising officer directly so we get it right instead of going on secondhand information."

+ USE NATIONAL RESOURCES WITHOUT LOSING THE LOCAL THREAD

- [ ] Use the National Reentry Resource Center to learn general categories of reentry support.
- [ ] Check whether it lists a directory of reentry resources for your state or county.
- [ ] Bring specific questions it raises to a local reentry organization or agency.
- [ ] Never treat its material as a statement of what applies to your specific case.
- [ ] Direct any urgent, case-specific question to the supervising officer or local program, not a national site.
- [ ] Revisit the center's material as needs shift across the months of reentry.
- [ ] Keep a short list of the local organizations and agencies you've been referred to along the way.

+ REFLECT AND WRITE

What general reentry topic do I need to understand better before I can ask a sharp local question?

Which local organization or agency is our actual point of contact for reentry help?

What question have I been asking a national resource that only our supervising officer or local agency can answer?

What will our reentry needs likely look like six months from now, and who will I ask then?

+ YOUR NEXT STEP

Identify one reentry organization serving your county and note its intake process.

+ WHERE THIS COMES FROM

Source: U.S. Department of Justice — verified August 2026. Curated and summarized by MFGP.
https://www.justice.gov/archives/reentry
This is general information and practice guidance — not legal advice, mental-health treatment, or a statement of any court, agency, or facility's rules. Policies differ by state, county, facility, school, and program, so always confirm details with the office involved.
For decisions with legal, medical, financial, or clinical consequences, work with a licensed professional or the organizations listed with each resource.
The information provided through The #FKLM Family Blueprint is for general educational purposes and is not legal advice. Laws and policies differ by jurisdiction and may change. Families needing advice about their individual circumstances should consult an appropriately qualified attorney or legal-services organization.

+

You do not have to do this alone.

More free guides, scripts, and checklists:
myfairygodparents.org/resources/family-blueprint