



## Prodigal Sons and Daughters: Easing the Transition from Incarceration to Home

### Top Ten Obstacles to Successful Reentry

Many men and women recently released from jail or prison experience:

1. No positive, supportive family or family-like relationships.
2. Unrealistic parole conditions that are not reflective of their crime or behavior (curfews, driving, contact with others, etc). These can lead to re-incarceration based on parole violations.
3. Lack of affordable, decent housing outside of high-crime neighborhoods.
4. Constant struggle to meet immediate survival needs (Clothing, food, transportation, and medical care).
5. Poor "employability" (Lack of valid employment history, extremely limited job opportunities, need for continued education or training).
6. Lack of supportive housing and appropriate treatment/supports for mentally ill and developmentally disabled former offenders.
7. Unwillingness or inability to forge new relationships and a new lifestyle. For many former offenders, returning to their home and neighborhood is putting them right back into the environment that made their crimes possible, and even acceptable.
8. Boredom. Offenders start out with little or no money, no job or regular social interaction, and a desire to avoid situations and people that have led them into criminal behavior in the past. This can leave them isolated.
9. Poor relationship choices. This is true for both men and women.
10. Community condemnation. Offenders only need to open a newspaper or watch TV to understand how unwelcome and feared they are by the larger community.

*Source: Re-entry Subcommittee, Diocesan Public Policy Committee, Rochester, NY, 2009*