

AFTER PRISON: ROADBLOCKS TO REENTRY

A REPORT ON STATE LEGAL BARRIERS FACING PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS

Report Card

COLORADO

Roadblocks are defined as unfair and counterproductive barriers to the reentry into society of people with criminal records, so the fewer the roadblocks, the better the score. Each of the 7 categories has a maximum of 10 roadblocks, so the highest (and worst) possible score is 70 roadblocks.

EMPLOYMENT: 7 ROADBLOCKS

Employers can ask about arrests that never led to conviction. Public employers and occupational licensing authorities may not automatically bar someone from employment or licensure based on felony convictions or other offenses involving moral turpitude, but they may consider those offense in determining whether the applicant is of good moral character. Private employers may refuse to hire anyone with a criminal record regardless of their qualifications. No opportunity for people with criminal records to obtain certificates of rehabilitation.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND FOOD STAMPS: 5 ROADBLOCKS

Individuals are eligible for benefits if taking steps toward rehabilitation, such as drug treatment.

ACCESS TO CRIMINAL RECORDS: 7 ROADBLOCKS

Certain arrests that did not lead to conviction may be sealed, but not convictions, even if old or minor. Records are available on the internet.

VOTING: 4 ROADBLOCKS

Bars people who are incarcerated or on parole for a felony conviction from voting.

PUBLIC HOUSING: 5 ROADBLOCKS

The Housing Authority of Denver makes individual eligibility determinations based on relevance of criminal history, but considers arrests that never led to conviction.

ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER PARENTING: 10 ROADBLOCKS

No individualized determinations about suitability to be an adoptive or foster parent.

DRIVERS' LICENSES: 10 ROADBLOCKS

Licenses automatically revoked or suspended for at least one year when individuals convicted for all drug offenses, not just those related to driving. No opportunity for those with revoked or suspended licenses to obtain restrictive licenses to attend work, school, or treatment.

TOTAL ROADBLOCKS: 48

Rank: 50th best out of 50