



TIPS FOR JOB SEARCHING WITH A FELONY CONVICTION



Having a felony on your criminal record can have serious consequences.

Economy, Parole, or Probation will require you in most cases to be gainfully employed. You may have difficulty finding work or renting an apartment, or unable to register to vote. You are undoubtedly now aware of this fact if you were convicted of a felony and served time in prison. However, there are some circumstances in which you may be unaware of now that you have a felony on your record.

For example, you may have assumed that your record had been expunged only to discover that it had not been - when a potential employer gets the results of a criminal background check. There could also be an error on your record. The only way to be certain is to obtain a copy of your criminal record, though the process differs between states and with the federal government.

We have provided some resources for you on our Resources webpage that deal with restricting records and correcting criminal history. These could be beneficial along with these 9 tips on landing a job to help you get reintegrated.

Job searching with a felony can be challenging, but it's not impossible. Here are some steps to help you find employment opportunities:

1. Identify "felon-friendly" employers: Some companies are more open than others. Often the rejection can be due to HR or company's insurance that rejects, rather than Hiring Mgr. Also, many nationalized or even Franchise-based could be unable to help. Not all, remember to always stay in the way of opportunity.
2. Utilize reentry programs and resources: Many communities offer reentry programs to help individuals with criminal records reintegrate into society. These programs often provide job training, placement assistance, and other support services. *(Remember: 1 in 19 GA. adults is on some form of Community Supervision. It's not that unusual of a conversation, and consider the fact that Gwinnett has 1 Million + population.)*
3. Network with friends, family, church, and community members: Word-of-mouth can be a powerful tool in finding job opportunities. Let people in your network know that you're looking for work and ask if they know of any openings or can provide referrals.

4. Be honest about your past: When applying for jobs, be upfront about your criminal record. Take responsibility for your actions, show remorse, and emphasize the positive changes you've made since your conviction.
5. Focus on your skills and experience: Highlight your relevant work experience, skills, and any training you've received, including any work or training completed while incarcerated.
6. Be persistent and stay positive: Job searching can be a frustrating process, especially for individuals with criminal records. Keep applying for jobs, networking, and improving your skills. Remember that many employers may be hesitant to hire someone with a felony, but they could. **Always Be Prepared.**
7. Reach out to local agencies to see if they can help you find employment opportunities.
 - Georgia Center for Opportunities (770) 242-0001
 - Department of Labor -221 Beaver Run Rd. Norcross 30071
 - AtWork Personnel (706) 684-0374
 - SafeStaffing (877) 432-7759 or go to
 - BetterWork Gwinnett at 45 Langley Dr. Lawrenceville 30046 for practical helps.
8. Utilize online job search platforms: Websites like Indeed, SimplyHired, and Snagajob can be helpful, **but** they are aggregate sites (***gather information from many sites***). You merely want to use these sites solely to discover job listings that may be open to hiring individuals with criminal records.
9. Sites such as LinkUp can be helpful for researching data, markets, and fields where jobs are prospering or failing.

Remember, you fought pretty hard to survive prison – so stay persistent and focused on your goal of finding employment.

Check out these resources and any attendant resources next to their search. Links are clickable.

<http://www.reentryworks.com/employment>

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/people-with-convictions-job-search-guide>

<https://helpforfelons.org/getting-a-job-felony>

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/reentry>

<https://www.careeraddict.com/companies-hire-felons>

<https://blog.worknetsolutions.com/helping-candidates-with-felony-convictions-5-things-to-remember-1>

<https://novoresume.com/career-blog/criminal-record-job-hunt>

<https://12stone.thejobconnection.org/>