

Employment

What is employment? It is that necessary engagement that an individual need to participate in to progress in life and be responsible to his family and society. Now, what is employment to an ex-felon? It is your lifeline. That contract you sign that says you will obey the laws of society, you will be accountable, responsible and remain out of trouble. It is that contract that will let everyone know you want to succeed, pay your bills, have and keep a schedule, pay taxes, do your part in the community, keep you grounded, gives you the ability to purchase clothing, food, and all of the other hundreds of life's necessities that will sustain you and it will also give you peace of mind knowing you are able to take care of yourself and help out others. Being **employed** gives you freedom to take care of yourself, open a savings account, start a credit line, save money, make donations to organizations and share responsibilities that other employed individuals share. **The moment you become employed** you become a part of society's norm and a vital part of society. Not only will you pay bills and taxes but you will also be helping to stabilize and strengthen the economy the moment you begin to make consumer purchases. At that point you are considered a worthy consumer, further opening doors for yourself, which will allow you to make improvements in your life. Others will begin to take risk, trust and invest in your future. Though there will be a great tendency to; especially once you realize just how easy it is to do, you must be very careful and not over do it or extend yourself too far by destroying your credit before you have a chance to fully build it. **Bad credit** is easy to come by but it shows just how irresponsible an individual can be. Do not get overjoyed after you've landed employment and therefore begin to spend all of your money on expensive things like clothes and jewelry when you can barely afford to. Make your purchases instead from discount stores. Making unnecessary purchases like this will only put you in a deficit that you may not be able to get out of or it may take you so long to do so that you will eventually give up on paying your bills and then ruin your good credit. You do not want to start out by living beyond and above your means. Stay within your budget and stick to it. It's real easy when you meet a female and want to impress her with gifts but that will also get you into financial

trouble and you will be putting up a false front by doing so. She may think you have plenty of money, build a relationship with you, get comfortable, want more expensive gifts then you either have to come clean or go out and steal to keep up with the lifestyle that you fronted from the beginning and when the gifts stop coming, there goes the relationship. Your goal is to save money, build a nest egg for your retirement so you can be financially comfortable when the time comes and improve your life while you are still working. Saving money does more. It builds confidence and character. You will feel confident that you had the capability to open a savings account and therefore can contribute, not to mention the ability to save money. **A good way to establish credit** is, once you've opened a savings account, is to apply for a five hundred dollar loan against your own savings account, make monthly timely payments. Once you've paid that off and have been employed for at least a year, creditors will be willing to give you credit card's, and loans because they see that you are responsible for, not only paying the loan back but also paying on time, you have steady employment and a stable residence but you must prove to them that you can be reliable. **Having a stable residence and steady employment plays a crucial part of building credit.** If you fail to follow these simple rules you may spoil your chances of building credit for yourself. Most company's are built on someone else's dollar. That's why you have venture capitalist and loan institutions. Your goal is to build credit not destroy it and the only way you will even be looked at for any loan is if you have steady employment and a stable residence. Being employed also opens the door to other possibilities like paying it forward, giving back and perhaps assisting someone else financially, especially those who assisted you while you were doing your time for your past misdeeds. Before you are employed you must first learn how to go about getting employment; **securing employment through interviews.** If you have a resume it will put you in good standings and make things a little easier for the potential employer. **Putting together your resume,** You should always list your education, job experience and past employment in order of the last position you had first and so forth. If you do not have a resume, do not fear, most newly released individuals will not have one. **Make the first impression count.** To give yourself the best opportunity you must dress to impress. You must be well groomed;

clothes ironed and neat. Fresh breath never hurt' s the situation, either. **Always show up for any interview on time.** Whether it is to merely fill out an application or a face to face interview. **Have proper identification , something to take notes with, be a good listener, do not interrupt the interviewer. Sit up straight.** If you wish, you can explain why you are seeking employment with a particular company. There is no need to go into details, unless asked to, but do **tell the interviewer from the beginning that you are an ex-felon.** Also explain that you are a willing, capable, hard worker, who is responsible, willing to learn, willing to do extra duty and that you will never steal from the company. This is very important to a company. **Explain any past experience you may have,** whether it be actual or trade school (vocational) experience. **Explain how you will get to work. Speak clearly and make eye contact** with the interviewer. **If there is something that was said you do not understand,** ask for it to be repeated. **This shows a willingness to get an understanding.**

Never pretend to know how to do a job you do not know how to do. This tend to show you are untrustworthy. **Be willing to take orders,** even from someone who is younger than you are and of a different gender. **Always thank the interviewer** at the end of the interview. **Do not forget to smile.** It shows that you are willing to relax and let your guard down. **Only offer your hand when invited to do so.**

If you do not get the job do not get angry and surely, you mustn't give up looking. You kept trying until you were finally granted parole, right? Then, do not give up on hunting for a job until you are gainfully and securally employed.

But, keep in mind. Just because you found employment and you feel secure does not mean you should always feel secure that you will get along with your supervisor. You may run into a supervisor who is unrelateable. **Remain positive** and speak with that persons supervisor if this happens to you. Never take matters into your own hands.

Employment strengthens integrity, builds character and teaches discipline.

Sample Resume:

Your Name:

Address:

Write a brief background on yourself, the type of person you are, what your goals are. List any job training you may have, education, etc.

Education: School/vocational history:

List name/address of school, date graduated, what type of degree/certificate, etc. List last school first, and so on.

Employment:

1). State prison, blythe, CA

Position: Janitorial

Duties: Cleaning Housing Unit

Employed from: 12-12-13-present

2). C.V.S.P., Avenal, CA

Position: Cook

Duties: Preparation and cooking of food for general population.

Employed from: 9/12-3/14

3). American Barrel Co., CA

Position: Server

Duties: Food Server/Bus boy