

## SOME OF THE WAYS PNO REENTRY CONSULTANTS ASSIST THEIR CLIENTS:

- **Assistance with securing basic documentation and access to public benefits**
  - Assist in obtaining birth certificates and social security cards.
  - Guidance in obtaining food stamps/SNAP benefits; reestablishing SSI disability.
  - Preparation for applying for Medicaid.
  - Linking veterans to resources and benefits to which they are entitled.
- **Assistance in resolving outstanding financial issues that hinder reentry**
  - Traffic tickets: dealing in advance with accrued fees and liens.
  - Helping to reduce or manage back child support payments.
  - Obtaining legal assistance to vacate a default judgment entered while incarcerated.
- **Assistance in rebuilding a safe and productive life in the community**
  - Employment
  - Negotiating bureaucratic obstacles including seemingly arbitrary halfway house rules.
  - Helping clients settle on realistic goals: when the goal is to start a business, we might advise gaining employment with another person experienced in the chosen field first.
  - Helping clients plan to achieve realistic goals: when the goal is self-employment, we review licensing requirements and restrictions on employment while on probation.
  - Housing
  - Outreach to family, including regaining contact and renewing relationships.
- **Peer support to prepare people for transition and community reintegration**

PNO offers returning citizens access to formerly-incarcerated people who are most aware of the subtle challenges of reentry often not recognized or understood by those who have not themselves made the transition from prison to community.

*“We have helped clients by just speaking with them about our own experience as we adjust in our own struggle in being free. Being an ear is very important. There are some cases where the consultant who has gone through the loss of family members while incarcerated will have to share their hurt and struggles with the client to show them it can be overcome. Also we can share the ups and downs on rebuilding relationships with their children.”* – Deputy Project Director Norman Brown

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