

# AFTER PRISON: ROADBLOCKS TO REENTRY

## A REPORT ON STATE LEGAL BARRIERS FACING PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS

### Report Card

#### ARIZONA

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: 2 ROADBLOCKS**

Employers and occupational licensing agencies can ask about arrests that never led to conviction. Private employers may refuse to hire anyone with a criminal record regardless of their qualifications. Public employers and occupational licensing authorities may only consider convictions reasonably related to the job or license sought if the person's civil rights have been restored. Opportunity for people with criminal records to obtain restoration of civil rights/certificates of rehabilitation for employment purposes.

#### **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND FOOD STAMPS: 2 ROADBLOCKS**

Individuals are eligible for benefits unless a court renders an individual ineligible to receive any public benefits as a result of a drug-related conviction.

#### **ACCESS TO CRIMINAL RECORDS: 4 ROADBLOCKS**

Arrests that did not lead to conviction and certain convictions can be sealed or expunged, but the individual cannot deny the existence of those sealed/expunged records if asked about them. Records only of currently incarcerated individuals are available on the Internet.

#### **VOTING: 6 ROADBLOCKS**

Bars individuals with felony convictions from voting unless civil rights have been restored.

#### **PUBLIC HOUSING: 5 ROADBLOCKS**

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

#### **ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER PARENTING: 0 ROADBLOCKS**

Determinations about suitability to be a foster or adoptive parent are made individually, and evidence of rehabilitation is considered.

#### **DRIVERS' LICENSES: 9 ROADBLOCKS**

Licenses automatically revoked or suspended for individuals convicted of driving a motor vehicle under the influence of a drug or of other specified offenses for one to five years. Opportunity for those with revoked or suspended licenses to obtain restrictive licenses if interlock device is installed on vehicle.

#### **TOTAL ROADBLOCKS: 28**

**Rank: 23<sup>rd</sup> best out of 51**