

*Men and women face many obstacles upon release from prison...*

## **IMPACT OF A CRIMINAL RECORD**

**Employment:** Many employers conduct local and/or federal criminal record searches before hiring. Discovery of your criminal record will negatively affect your chances to get a job.

**Self Employment:** Before sub-contracting to an individual or to a business, many companies require criminal record search for all employees and owners.

**Career Advancement:** Many companies and organizations have started conducting criminal record searches for employees who have applied for promotions. You will probably not get the promotion and may even get fired.

**Ability to be Bonded:** If it is too expensive for any employer to bond you, because of your criminal record, you will not be hired.

**Custody of Your Children:** Your child custody and visitation rights may be reduced or eliminated because of your criminal record.

**Volunteer Work:** Criminal record searches are required by law for people wishing to be volunteers. Most organizations will not permit you to volunteer if you have a criminal record.

**Apartment Rental:** Standard rental application forms ask if you have a criminal record. You may find it difficult to find a place to live if you have a criminal record.

**Educational Opportunities:** Many educational programs require criminal record checks.

**Well Being:** Most people are consciously or sub-consciously distressed by past criminal records. Removing your criminal record is a large part of removing the stigma and shame associated with a criminal past.