

## **Reentry Manual / Pre Release Class Course Outline**

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of PreRelease / ReEntry programming is to prepare inmates for successful transition back into community living.

### **Expectations**

Throughout the course of PreRelease / Reentry programming, inmates will be presented with information to help them secure housing, find employment, rebuild relationships with family and access substance abuse prevention assistance upon release. Upon completion of programming, inmates will have a workable reentry plan, which includes the four objectives listed above.

### **Participation**

PreRelease / ReEntry programming may be made available to inmates with 12 months or less to release. Once enrolled, participants will be expected to miss no more than 3 classes, to participate in class activities and to complete all assignments. A certificate may be issued upon successful completion.

### **Duration and Delivery**

Because each inmate comes with unique needs, PreRelease / Reentry programming is fluid by design. As a general rule, PreRelease class may be delivered over a four to five week period, with two to three classes per week. The length of classes should be from 1 hour to 1 ½ hour per class. A class size of ten to twelve inmates is ideal. Delivery may be done by DOC Education Coordinators or by contract educators.

### **ReEntry Manual**

The ReEntry Manual includes nine Steps to successful reentry, and is designed to function as both a teacher's guide and inmate workbook, with space to take notes, checklists to gauge reentry readiness and worksheets to create resumes, budgets and spending logs. Objectives are listed at the beginning of each Step, followed by a simple, step by step process for meeting them.

Some Steps require minimal time. For example, Step 1 requires inmates have birth certificates, state IDs, social security cards and other records. Inmates who have paperwork in order may move on to Step 2; others will complete forms requesting necessary documents and move on while waiting for them to arrive.

Other Steps require additional time. For example, Step 4 requires inmates to create a resume, understand how to look for work and practice interview skills. Resume worksheets are included in the ReEntry Manual and may be used alongside other available tools. The length of time needed to meet the objectives for this Step will depend on individual inmates and will likely differ among classes and institutions.

### **Supplementary Materials**

Educator Coordinators or contract educators are encouraged to supplement the ReEntry Manual with reference materials specific to local areas. Reference materials might include local housing options, social service providers, AK Job Centers, etc. Instructors are also encouraged to invite guest speakers to class to present information on housing, employment support services, post secondary education and other helpful topics.