

Keeping Your Job

Even if you have landed a job you may still run into issues with your criminal record. But there are things that you can do to avoid the implications of a criminal record when you're in a job. Also, just like anybody you should always be trying to keep progressing in your career. So here are some tips:

- Stay Confident
- Not Your Dream Job?
- Facing the Ex-Con Stereotype
- Communicate Mistakes –Do Not Hide Them
- Build Your Resume
- Invest in the Community

Confidence

It is very important to realize that once a supervisor has hired you and is well aware of your criminal record you can no longer lose that job because of your record. Feel confident and proud that you got this job because of your skills and experience. If you do a good job with this employer it could open up many more opportunities to you.

Dream Job

While you may not be in your dream job, do not let your dislike of a job ever show. The only way to get into the job of your dreams is to do a good job with every opportunity you have. Impress your supervisor and all those around you with hard work and a good attitude. This will allow you to keep reaching for your dreams. The longer you can make your initial job work, the better the experience will look when you are applying for your dream job.

The Ex-Con Effect

Eventually it will come out that you have formerly been incarcerated to your co-workers. Let every opportunity that comes be an opportunity to market yourself. Talk about how your time in prison has really shaped the person that you want to be. You don't have to act tough and feed into the stereotype; but you also should not belittle the experience, because your time in prison was formative to your character. You do not need to share every detail of what you did to get into prison, it is better to stay generic with your answers. If a co-worker has ever had a crime happen to them, you do not want them to imagine you as the person who did it.

Communicate

You are bound to make a few mistakes when you are on the job (i.e. get to work late, miscalculate receipt balances, or drop a tray of dishes). If you will be late or have to miss work communicate that as soon as possible. If you make a mistake, don't hide what you did, just be open and honest. Because your supervisor already has assumptions about your character because of your record, your supervisor may be less forgiving to you than with a coworker who has never been incarcerated.

Even if you do lose your job you will feel better about yourself if you know that you told the truth. If you do re-offend and go back to prison try to call your supervisor and tell them what has happened. That way the last thing that they remember about you is not that you are a criminal, but that you are a good employee that was dealing with a lot of stuff.

Build Your Resume

While it is true that there are a lot of things that you will not be able to do now that you have a criminal record, do not let that stop you from building your skills for your future. Be creative, volunteer, start your own business, go back to school and just do things that will make you feel good about your future so that you will not fall back into the things that got you incarcerated for the first time. Take opportunities of trainings, and professional development through your job. Then keep updating your resume with all of these things. Do not wait to job search until you do not have a job.

Invest in the Community

A person involved in their family and community is a better employee. It is a lot easier to tell an employer that you need to leave early to go to parent conferences then it is to make up an excuse. Re-invest in your family, participate in your community, and be willing to do new things. These will be the things that will make you feel that it is worth staying out of illegal activity. Networking is going to be one of your best opportunities to move up in your career. Start networking while you already have a job, with everyone around you.