



## Alaska Reentry Partnership

*A statewide coalition of individuals and organizations promoting success for justice-involved Alaskans at all phases of their involvement--pretrial, incarceration, reentry. Members include people with lived experience, family members, reentry coalitions, community providers, state and local agencies.*

### **Access to State ID Upon Reentry From Incarceration**

*Support processes that ensure every individual leaving incarceration returning to an Alaskan community has the appropriate documentation accepted by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a valid State ID. Not having acceptable documentation for an ID at the time of release can mean critical delays for accessing housing, employment, treatment, training, education, and other supports and services that increase the likelihood of success and reduce the likelihood of future criminal behavior (recidivism).*

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Proof of identity in the form of a State Identification (ID) card is a necessary component for successful community reentry after incarceration. A returning citizen must show government-issued identification when securing essential life resources such as employment, housing, treatment, transportation, banking, public building entry, and other services.

Currently, individuals released from an Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) facility receive documentation confirming their identity in the *Inmate Release Identification Form*, with instructions to present this document to the DMV to obtain a State ID card. However, in practice, DMV personnel may or may not accept the DOC document and deny the issuance of a State ID, which happens, as reported by reentry case managers statewide.

Delays in securing a State ID may require the released individual to pause reentry-planned pathways such as getting a job, getting an apartment, substance use or mental health treatment, and other essential services. Individuals may wait weeks or months while other documentation, such as a birth certificate, arrives from another jurisdiction. These administratively-induced delays and subsequent inactivity are known to increase the likelihood of recidivism.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Amend Alaska's statutes, regulations, and practices to ensure eligible individuals released from a DOC facility have appropriate documentation for a valid State ID upon release.
- Require DMV, within the Department of Administration, to accept the documentation DOC provides, or if DOC documentation is not acceptable, require DOC to work with the appropriate agencies to obtain the proper documentation *before* release.
- Amend Alaska's statutes, regulations, and practices to ensure the Departments of Administration, Health, and Corrections implement streamlined identity information exchange and the issuance of a State ID to all eligible returning citizens.

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