

# Arkansas Offender Re-entry

Change the changeable.

Accept the unchangeable.

Remove yourself from the unacceptable.

Denis Waitley

- Legislative Act 1190 Re-entry Committee 2013
  - Meetings held to discuss legal barriers to re-entry and recidivism in 2014
    - Inability to obtain identification cards and driver's licenses
      - Proof of legal presence and identity documents missing
      - Vision test requirement
      - Requirement of residency address
      - Photo – must not look like an inmate
      - Inability to pay card fees
      - Inability to pay reinstatement fees for driver's license
      - Inability to convey inmates to Revenue Offices
      - Identity theft possible
      - FMCSA Requirements for inmates with CDLs
      - Potential for fraud

## **Act 895 of 2015 Criminal Justice Reform Act Prior to Amendments**

- Implementation 90 days after adjournment
- Defined “eligible inmate”
- Provided for free ID cards to “eligible inmates” or
- Provide write off of reinstatement fees if inmate suspended or revoked and issuance of driver’s license
- Only documents required are sentencing order

## Challenges to Implementation

- 3 State Agencies, new programming required, 3 Vendors, and no additional budget or personnel provided by Legislature
- AR. Department of Finance & Administration with IT staff, 2 vendors and plan for central issuance with no new personnel.
- AR. Department of Corrections (ADC) (Prisons) with local IT vendor, no IT staff and no budget to pay for programming changes required. ADC required central issuance as they had no way to transport inmates and felt it unsafe to do so.
- Arkansas Community Corrections (ACC) with limited IT staff and demand for over the counter issuance at Revenue Offices throughout the state.

## Change the changeable

- Reduced the scope to “eligible inmates”
- Changed requirements for documents
- Provided free ID cards but paid driver’s licenses
- Changed write off of reinstatement fees to be contingent on all other requirements being met
- Agreement that no CDLs, first time issuance or limited term non-U.S. citizens would be covered.
- Provided both over the counter and central issuance
- Agreement that facial recognition would be used
- Changed legislative implementation date

## Accept the unchangeable

- Must implement with no additional budget
- Must implement with no additional employees
- Must accommodate needs of ADC and ACC
- Must accept fraud and identity theft will be attempted

## **Remove yourself from the unacceptable**

- No issuance that would violate federal laws such as ignoring suspensions for unpaid child support, or issuing commercial driver's licenses without proper documentation
- No issuance by prison inmate trustees
- No issuance if problem in facial recognition-stop identity theft and fraud



## **For More Information Contact:**

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