

**“It Takes ID to Get ID”: How
Identification Requirements
Create Service Barriers
for People with Serious Mental
Illness Leaving Jail**

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Kriegsgefangenen-Offz.-Lager 64
(Oflag 64)

Datum: 3.10.1944

Ungültig

Ungültig

als Legitimation für den öffentlichen Verkehr.
Gültig NUR im Kriegsgefangenen-Lager.



Der Kgf. hat diese Erkennungskarte und die Erkennungsmarke des Lagers stets bei sich zu führen. Bei Kontrolle sind beide vorzuzeigen. Verlust ist sofort zu melden.

The P. o. W. has always to carry with him this identification card and his tag. On control both have to be presented. The loss of the card or tag has to be reported immediately.

Name Liggett, Francis

Dienstgrad Leutnant

Erkennungs-Nr. 87959/XTIA

Fingerabdruck
d. r. Z. F.

CAPTAIN AMERICA'S

SENTINELS OF LIBERTY

Pledge To Principles

1. IN GOD WE TRUST.
2. ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
3. TO MAKE MYSELF A BETTER CITIZEN AND DEFEND MY GOVERNMENT FOREVER.



COMMONWEALTH OF
Virginia
DRIVER'S LICENSE

ORGAN DONOR: Y

CUST NO 123-32-1323

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WARTE, PAPILLOMA
42-2630 HEGAL PLACE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 23242



Background

- ID requirements can be fraud protection measures
- More public services are using ID requirements
- ID requirements can create service disincentives
- Recent policy changes raise questions about the efficiency and effectiveness of ID requirements

The Problem

- Incarceration often strips people of their identification
 - This stripping creates service barriers at release
 - These barriers create a host of problems for people with SMI
 - No research has systematically examined
 - How lack of identification leads to service barriers in daily practice
- OR
- Why some are unable to obtain the necessary forms of identification

The Study

- 17 month case study of a reentry program for people with serious mental illness
- Inductive examination of help seeking activities post incarceration
- Data were analyzed using open coding techniques
- Data were triangulated by source and method

Why ID is Important, Part I

- People with SMI involved in the CJ system need support to deal with complex problems such as
 - Poverty
 - Homelessness
 - Drug and alcohol issues
 - Medical issues
- The first step in help seeking post incarceration was applying for
 - General Assistance
 - Food Stamps
 - Medicaid
- Public assistance's ID requirements quickly emerged as a major barrier to help seeking post incarceration

Why ID is Important, Part II

State Administered Public Assistance Programs	Medicaid
<p>Required documentation of Identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security Card • Driver's license • Work or school ID • Selective Service Card • Voter ID • Third Party Verification 	<p>Required documentation of identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passport • State identification with photo • School ID • Military ID • Receipt of SSI or SSDI
<p>Required documentation of citizenship:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>	<p>Required documentation of citizenship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passport • Certified birth certificate • Public birth record • Hospital record, or • Physician statement that was created more than 5 years before the application for medical assistance • An affidavit made by 2 people (one non relative) who can prove their own identity, and can explain why there is no record of birth.

Why ID Requirements are a Problem for Returning Prisoners

- “Um well with the ID, [public assistance] have to understand that [the clients] are coming out of the prison system. They don't have an ID... and this creates just a lot of running around trying to get an ID. Like for the Social Security card they need some type of ID for that. So it's kind of a lot a trying to figure out how to do that and running around. Like I can see if it was a person who didn't have a case manager and they had to do it on their own. If it was me I would be like forget it. I'm not going to deal with that. Cause its frustrating and very time consuming and annoying, especially if they [public assistance] are not treating the clients like people.”

The Source of the Problem

I: do you find there is consistency in the ID that is required [by public assistance]?

R: there is some consistency I think, I mean it takes ID to get ID. If the consumer doesn't have a social security card, or library card or birth certificate they can't get anything else. Having an access card [*The benefit card that public assistance issues*] will allow you to get some of those things, but you can't have an access card if you don't have ID. It is a never ending circle”

“The Never Ending Circle”

Type of ID	Identity Requirements	Citizenship Requirements	Exceptions?	Cost
Drivers License/ Non license ID	Certified Birth Certificate OR Passport	N/A	Citizens: No Non-citizens: Yes	\$26/ \$10
Social Security Card	Driver’s License OR Passport	Certified Birth Certificate OR Passport	None for identity documents	0
Birth Certificate	Valid Government ID with current address	N/A	No	\$10
Passport	Previous passport OR Driver’s License	Previous passport OR Certified birth certificate	Yes	\$97 new \$67 renew

Voices of Experience

I: Tell me what you went through to get ID?

R: Umm...the organization assisted me they went with me to fill out all the paperwork, they fronted the fee for the birth certificate which I paid them back. They assisted me in fronting the fee for the non drivers license which I returned you know payment on.

I: So it could have been harder?

R: It would have been much harder...I mean, I had no way of getting around when I first got out. None at all.

Voices of Experience

- R: Well when I tried to get [a birth certificate] they gave me pretty much the run around you know and they had me, try to get ID when that is what I needed my birth certificate for. I need my birth certificate to get ID, you know what I mean... then you needed ID to get the birth certificate, right – I mean it was complicated, and like, the way them people at them birth certificate office and them ID offices, they like have an nasty attitude, they don't like, don't treat you right, I mean its like, go away I am busy.
- I: Can you think of any specific examples?

R: First of all you got to go down in a line where there is like 50, 60 people in a line and you have to wait there, and you are actually standing there listening to them ask these people a bunch of questions, you know, but it seems like they repeat themselves, makin you stand there longer, askin the same questions over and over, then by the time you get to the window, you already aware of what they are goin to ask you so you are ready, and soon as they ask you, you answer, and it seems like they just keep repeatin themselves, like they trin to hold you there, and then when you get to the window they try to discourage you, oh you don't got the right, letter you need a different letter, this pill bottle is no good because the dates expired, you know stuff like that

Consequences of the ‘Never Ending Circle’

“It takes a fifth”

(Time and Frustration)

“ My case manager is handling it”

(Resources)

“Keep it real, its depressing”

(Discouragement)

- **“I can’t get into IOP, I can’t cash my SSI check or none of that”**

(The cascade effect)

Policy Implications

- A confluence of unrelated and uncoordinated legislative initiatives are impacting access to social services
- The benefits of ID requirements in social services remain unclear
- ID requirements may be contributing to disparities in access and health outcomes for some of society's most vulnerable members