

Prepare yourself for your return to the Netherlands



It is important that you make proper arrangements for your return to the Netherlands. This will help you to make a fresh start after your stay in prison.

Who will arrange everything for me? You will

It will take some adjustment, but soon you will arrange everything yourself again. You will look for a home, a job, take care of your children, do your shopping, take out insurance. It is a lot to handle.

Do you have friends or family who are there for you?

Do they know you will be released soon? Discuss this with them now instead of later. So they can prepare as well. And let as many people as possible know that you are looking for a home and a job. So they can already start looking around for you in the Netherlands. It really works!

Are you on your own?

The municipality provides support. This is referred to as Aftercare. The municipality provides advice on all sorts of practical matters, such as accommodation, income & debts, identity cards and healthcare. Complete the form if you require aftercare. We will use it to register you with the municipality. The municipality will provide us with the contact details of a consultant. We will forward that information to you. They will not be informed why you were in prison. Have you been released early unexpectedly? Inform us immediately, so that we can inform the municipality.

Checklist

This is what you can already do at this time:

- Where will you live?**
Can you go back to your own home? Or can you stay with friends or family? If not, you will have to rely on homeless shelters.
- If you do not have Dutch nationality** and you held a residence permit? Please contact the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND). Enquire whether your detention has consequences for your status, www.ind.nl.
- Think about a job or study**
You will need money as quickly as possible. So you should therefore start thinking about the work you would like to do. Perhaps you can already take a course to prepare yourself for your new job.
- Would you like to receive support from a volunteer?**
You will be faced with many challenges when you come back to the Netherlands. Support from a volunteer can help. The volunteer may accompany you to appointments, or simply listen to what you have to say. Please indicate this on the Aftercare form if you enjoy talking to a volunteer.

Checklist

This is what you will be doing in the Netherlands:

How are you doing?

Serving a prison sentence abroad may be bad for your health. It would be wise to schedule an appointment with the doctor immediately when you return to the Netherlands. For a physical checkup or psychological care.

Register with the municipality where you will be living within 5 days

This is what you will need:

- your discharge certificate from the prison. Request a detention declaration from Bureau Buitenland if you did not receive a discharge certificate.
- a valid identity card or passport
- your home address or postal address

Apply for a DigiD at www.digid.nl

This is your digital ID card. It is mandatory if you arrange something formal on the internet.

You need the following to apply for a DigiD:

- your Citizen Service Number (BSN), which is indicated on your passport.
- a registration with the municipality

Search for a job or study

You will need income as soon as possible. Check if you are eligible for benefits if you cannot immediately find work:

- You will need a DigiD.
- You register as a job-seeker at www.werk.nl.
- You apply for benefits in your own municipality via www.werk.nl. The municipality determines whether you will receive them.

Have you been released early unexpectedly?

If so, contact Bureau Buitenland immediately. We will ensure that you are registered for aftercare with the municipality quickly. Naturally, you can contact your municipality's aftercare service yourself immediately as well. This will enable you to arrange for important matters yourself.



Open a bank account

You need a bank account for almost everything. When you receive a salary or benefits for example.

You may be entitled to allowances

Check on www.belastingdienst.nl and www.mijntoeslagen.nl whether you are entitled.

There are 4 types of allowances:

- healthcare allowance
- rent allowance
- child-related budget
- child care allowance

Take out health insurance

Having basic insurance is mandatory. This means that you are insured for the doctor, medicines and the hospital. If you are aware of the date on which you will return, you should reactivate your insurance from that date.

Repay your debts

Ask for assistance from your municipality's Debt Assistance department if you are unable to resolve this yourself. Together with you they will assess how you can best repay your debts.



What is the purpose of this form?

Complete this form if you would like to receive information about all manner of practical issues such as accommodation, income and debts.

I would like to receive aftercare from the municipality

My details

Name

Date of birth

Place of birth

Country and place name of the prison

E-mail

Telephone number

My last home address in the Netherlands

Street and house number:

Postcode and place

Presumed date of return to the Netherlands:

I grant Bureau Buitenland approval to share information concerning my situation* with the municipality and to consult with them concerning these 5 subjects:

1. Income: what is your income situation after you return, and do you want to work or follow training? Write this down here:

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2. Debts: are there any outstanding debts and has anything been arranged in this regard? Do you need help handling your debts? Write this down here:

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3. Living: do you still have a house, can you stay with friends or family or will you be out on the streets after you return? Write this down here:

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Please note!

Did you complete the form? Do not forget your signature!

4. Identity card: do you still have a valid passport or identity card? What document will you use to return to the Netherlands? Write this down here:

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5. Care: do you have physical or psychological complaints? Write this down here:

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Inform us as accurately as possible of the assistance you think you will need after you return.

Are there any other matters you need assistance with, other than the ones indicated above? If so, write that down below.

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I would like to receive support from a volunteer

I consent to the provision of information* and coordination concerning the five subjects with the following organisations: Prison Fellowship The Netherlands (Gevangenzorg Nederland), Exodus or Humanitas.

Date & place

Signature

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Send this form to:

Dutch Probation Service
attn. Bureau Buitenland
PO Box 136
3500 AC Utrecht
The Netherlands

* We never share information about why you were imprisoned.