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**FOR RELEASE AT WILL**

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**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON CHANGES  
EASING THE TRANSITION OF EX OFFENDERS**

EDISON — Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) has published a special "reentry" newsletter that focuses entirely on the recent spate of new laws and changes eliminating barriers faced by former offenders in adjusting to community life.

The bilingual publication, "Looking Out For Your Legal Rights," may be viewed online at [www.lsnjlaw.org](http://www.lsnjlaw.org).

It offers nine separate articles that together amount to a tutorial on reentry reforms in New Jersey for people who were incarcerated or had criminal records and now are focusing on putting their lives back together.

One article, for example, examines a new law that offers protections for people with records seeking housing by barring landlords from considering the past offenses before making a conditional offer. There are numerous other aspects of the Fair Change Housing Act that are explained.

Another piece relates how a key barrier to people with past offenses from obtaining licenses from state occupational and professional licensing boards has been eliminated.

Further, there are several pieces in the Special Reentry Edition covering major changes making it easier to expunge past records. That includes a detailed guide to eligibility and resources for the expungement of past marijuana-related conviction. In that regard there is an article focusing on the New Jersey Supreme Court's program for the automatic dismissal or expungement in many cases involving offenses for small amounts of marijuana or hashish, as well as the procedure for people to check if their record actually has been expunged.

*Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for 55 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.7 million cases.*

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