

Get Off Probation

by

J Jones



**The complete guide to getting off
probation**

“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky
Russian Novelist

Your Attention Please

The author is not an attorney. This book does not provide legal advice. This book only explains the author's experience in terminating his probation early. Both the author and the publisher always recommend readers consult an attorney on legal matters. Furthermore, both the publisher and the author believe the information contained in this book is accurate, but readers should not rely on this information. Neither the publisher nor the author can guarantee the accuracy of the information in this book. Always consult an attorney on legal matters.

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The complete guide to getting off probation.

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How to Use This Book:

To get the most out of this book you should read the first ten chapters before starting to write your Motion to Terminate Probation Early. Next, look up the law that gives judges the authority to terminate probation early, which is in the appendix. Look at specific chapters and the Table of Contents for assistance in writing your motion. Overall, I believe Chapter Ten will be the most helpful.

Dedication

I dedicate this book to all the ex-offenders who are trying their best to make it on the outside. I'm also an ex-offender and I understand what you are going through. It's difficult, but your only choice is to work hard and try to make it on the outside. You owe it to yourself, your family and your loved ones.

Keep up the good work. I wish all of you the best of luck.

To say the least, there are numerous barriers ex-offenders must overcome to live a normal life and become productive members of society. Always remember, it is possible to overcome these barriers and have a normal life. America is the land of opportunity. Society will give you a second chance, but you have to take advantage of these opportunities.

Thank You

Also, a sincere thank you goes out to my parents, who stood by me when I was going through my legal ordeal. My parents also attended every court hearing and graciously allowed me to live with them for free when I was on house arrest and trying to start a new life. I will always remember and be grateful for their kindness. I lost everything and they were there for me.

I am grateful for the second chance I was given by society. Everyday, I try my best to be a contributing member of society. I consider myself fortunate to have been born an American. Being born in America is like winning the lottery. My life is good and keeps getting improving.

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“The lesson is that you can still make mistakes and be forgiven.”

Robert Downey Jr.
Actor

Note from the Author:

I never liked being on probation. There's nothing fun about being on probation. Every month I had to fill out paperwork and I worried about being sent back to prison. Many of my friends in prison were there because they failed a drug test and their probation was violated. I wanted to be free. You're not free when you're on probation. I had to ask for permission from my probation officer just to take a vacation.

I was always on my best behavior with my probation officer. I also worked hard to comply with the terms of my probation. I wasn't perfect and I made mistakes, but I tried my best. My goal was to get off probation as soon as possible. It's easier to start rebuilding your life when you're completely free.

In many ways being on probation is harder than being in prison. When you're on probation, you always worry about getting into trouble and being sent back to prison. It's stressful being on probation. Also, there's a lot of temptation out there and it's easy to make a mistake and get into trouble.

I describe in detail how I was able to get off probation early. My book includes the law that allows the court to release defendants from probation early for every state and the federal government. Also included is the motion I submitted to get off probation early. Step by step, I explain what I did to get off probation early. The first step is to build a good relationship with your probation officer. Once you have determined that you have a good chance of getting off probation early, you should consult an attorney.

Best advice:

Read this book and contact an attorney if you believe you have a realistic chance of getting off probation early. Hiring a qualified professional is always the best course of action.

You never know what is possible until you try. Good luck with your efforts to get off probation early.

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“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

Nelson Mandela
Former President of South Africa



About the Author

First and foremost I want to state the obvious, crime doesn't pay. I regret the actions that I took that hurt others and myself. I paid for my actions. It's just not worth all of the stress, fines and possible jail time. We live in the land of opportunity. Other options are available to earn a living.

My friends and family begged me to write this book. To be honest with you, I was reluctant to write this book because I don't want to draw attention to myself or my background. Also, I don't want to advertise the fact that I have a criminal record. I can assure you that my story is completely true. I'll do my best to summarize a long story.

I grew up in a small town. After graduating from college I married the love of my life and moved out West. I worked at a series of dead end jobs. I always kept my eyes open to find new opportunities to have a better life. I dreamed of starting my own business. I desperately wanted to achieve the American dream.

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I came across what I thought was the opportunity of a lifetime. I had the chance to study a business in another state for a week. This business received the majority of its funding from the government. The more I thought about it, the more I thought this was the perfect business.

I spoke with a close friend about this opportunity. We agreed to start a similar business. I didn't have any money, but I had a lot of credit cards. We started our business with credit cards. It was harder than I thought it would be. It took months to find the right building, hire the staff and get the business off the ground.

Eventually, the business took off. We were making money for ourselves, providing good jobs for our employees and helping people. Life was good. The business was up and down, but overall it did okay for a few years. We had only one competitor in a very large city. There were many people who needed the services our facility provided. Fortunately, we were able to save some of the money that we made. (We would later use this money to pay restitution and legal fees.)

The business started to deteriorate when the government made it tougher to get paid. We stuck it out for a while, but later sold the business for a token amount to a supplier we owed a substantial amount of money to. I thought this was a win/win situation for everyone. In hindsight, I should have closed the business down. If I had closed the business down, nothing would have happened to me. I never would have been charged with a crime and never would have been sent to prison. You live and learn from your mistakes.

I later found out that close friends had been under investigation and had cooperated on my case to get a better deal. This is an everyday occurrence in the criminal justice system. Yes, I'm guilty of the crime. But usually individuals only have to repay the money they owe to the government. It's very rare for anyone to go to prison for what we did, even in major cases.

I hired an expensive lawyer because I thought I could get off with the right lawyer. I was wrong. (It's easy to spend a fortune on legal fees.) I later ended up spending all of my money on legal fees, expert witnesses and paying restitution. (Paying the legal fees was more painful than going to prison.) I was offered a plea deal, but I rejected it because I thought my best friend would then go to jail.

I was looking at up to twenty years in prison. The judge gave me a relatively short sentence at a camp, house arrest and three years of probation. I was happy, but all of my co-defendants got off with only house arrest and probation. While in prison I realized how lucky I was in comparison to most of the other people I met in prison.

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I lost everything that I had. I lost my friends, my wife and everything that I owned. I worried about my case constantly and the stress caused my health to deteriorate. (I'm sure my ex-wife blames me for everything.) My ex-wife is a good person and I regret getting her involved in this venture. This is one of the biggest regrets that I have in my life.

I never thought we would get into trouble for anything. I believe we were doing exactly what many other similar businesses were doing. It's over and I can't look back. I'll never get into trouble again. It's just not worth it.

After getting out of prison, I lived with my parents to complete my house arrest and probation. I stayed out of trouble. I also completed a degree and worked at different jobs. The jobs were just horrible, but it kept me busy.

While I was on probation, one of my co-defendants contacted me and told me that she had been able to get off probation early. I asked her what she had done. After being on probation for less than a year, I asked my probation officer if he would support me if I asked the court for early termination of my probation. He told me it was okay. Next, I wrote and submitted a motion to the court asking for early termination of my probation. To my surprise my motion was granted. I was a free man after only serving less than a year of probation. (Keep in mind, I was fortunate. Generally, you should serve at least half of your probation before asking the judge to terminate the rest of your probation.)

I'm rebuilding my life. Everyday my life is getting better. I'm optimistic about the future. Life is good. I'm grateful for the freedom that I have and cherish every minute of it.

Being incarcerated has had a profound impact on how I view the world and interact with others.

I wish each of you the best of luck in your efforts to get off probation and rebuild your life.

J Jones

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(Note: Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin have specific forms you must use to ask the court to terminate probation early. Links to these forms are provided in the Appendix listed under the name of each state.)

Download the following templates at <http://www.getoffprobation.com/motion> or <http://tinyurl.com/getoffprobationfile>

- Read_First.htm: Explains in detail how to use this ebook and the additional files.
- Form01_GOP.rtf: **Defendant’s Notice of Hearing and Motion to Terminate Probation.** (Must attach Motion to Terminate Probation Early to Notice of Hearing. Use if the court allows you to schedule a Hearing before filing the Motion to Terminate Defendant’s Probation Early.) See Chapter Seven.
- Form02_GOP.rtf: **Defendant’s Motion to Terminate Probation.** See Chapter Six, pages 33 to 39 and Chapter Ten, pages 53 to 78.
- Form03_GOP.rtf: **Defendant’s Notice of Hearing:** Use this form if the court requires you to first file your Motion to Terminate Probation before you can schedule a hearing. See Chapter Seven.
- Form04_GOP.rtf: **Judge’s Order Granting Defendant’s Motion to Terminate Probation.** (This is more common in smaller courts. Ask the court clerk or the judge’s assistant if you need to write this motion.) See Chapt. Nine, pages 49 to 51.
- Form05_GOP.rtf: **Judge’s Order Denying Defendant’s Motion to Terminate Probation.** (This is more common in smaller courts. Ask the court clerk or the judge’s assistant if you need to write this motion.) See Chapter Nine, pages 49 to 51.

Words of Wisdom

“Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.”

Thomas Edison
American Inventor

“If you can dream it, you can do it.”

Walt Disney

“High expectations are the key to everything.”

Sam Walton
Founder of Wal-Mart

“You can never quit. Winners never quit and quitters never win.”

Ted Turner
Founder of CNN

“You can have anything in this world you want. If you want it badly enough and you’re willing to pay the price.”

Mary Kay Ash
Founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics

“All of our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Walt Disney

“When your desires are strong enough you will appear to possess superhuman powers to achieve.”

Napoleon Hill
Author of *Think and Grow Rich*

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“The prisoner is not the one who has committed a crime, but the one who clings to his crime and lives it over and over.”

Henry Miller
American Novelist



Chapter One: FAQs

1. Can you guarantee that I will be able to get off probation early?

No, I cannot. Each case is unique. It depends on your background, the crime you were convicted of, your behavior since being convicted, the judge and your probation officer. I cannot guarantee that you will be able to get off probation.

2. Does this book provide legal advice?

No, *Get Off Probation* explains in detail how I was able to terminate my probation early. I always recommend seeking the advice of a qualified attorney regarding legal matters.

3. What type of lawyer should I hire to assist me in this matter?

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Hire an experienced criminal defense attorney who practices in the jurisdiction in which you were convicted.

4. How much does it cost to hire a criminal defense attorney to file this motion on my behalf?

America is overflowing with attorneys. Costs vary dramatically. Interview a minimum of three attorneys and try to negotiate a flat fee for an attorney to handle this matter.

5. Are you a lawyer?

I'm not a lawyer. I'm just a regular guy who got into a lot of trouble. I pled guilty to a felony and was sentenced to a federal prison camp. I learned from my mistakes. It was a humbling experience. I am now rebuilding my life.

6. Were you perfect when you were on probation?

No, I wasn't an angel. I tried to be perfect, but I made a few mistakes. I had some health problems and I quit my job to concentrate on the classes I was taking. I tried my best to have a good relationship with my probation officer. This was hard, because I had a new probation officer every few months.

Another time I went to another state without getting permission. I didn't have a choice. This is something I had to do. Probation officers are busy people and it's hard to get in touch with them on a short notice.

7. Can I do this by myself?

Yes. I wrote the motion by myself. I also submitted it to the court by myself. I couldn't afford an attorney or even a paralegal. I was flat broke. This was a difficult time in my life.

8. Can I get off probation early, even if I committed a serious crime?

It's possible, but you have to work that much harder to get off probation early. You have to be realistic and completely honest with yourself. Keep in

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mind that individuals who have committed serious crimes have received presidential pardons.

9. Are you angry about what happened to you?

I'm human and of course I'm angry. The anger only brings me down. I try to have a positive attitude. It could have been a lot worse than it was. I was more fortunate than the vast majority of people who are sent to prison everyday. My family was there to help me when I needed it the most. I'm a lucky person.

10. In what circumstances shouldn't I ask the judge to terminate my probation?

If your probation officer has any objections, you should think twice about making this request. An objection from your probation officer is a huge barrier for you to overcome in court. Instead, ask your probation officer what you can do to get him or her to agree to your request to get off probation early in the future. (It would be difficult to get off probation if your probation officer has any objections and shares these concerns with the judge.)

11. Why did you write this book?

I wanted to share my story. Furthermore, I want to let other people on probation know that it is in fact possible to get off probation early.

12. Can you tell us more about your life today?

That's a good question. First, I value my privacy. I do not want to be in the spotlight. Second, I don't want to advertise the fact that I have a criminal record. I paid the price for what I did. Also, I want the readers to focus more on the message of *Get Off Probation* than the messenger.

13. Briefly, what can I do to improve my chances of getting off probation early?

A. Be current on all of your fines or pay your fines off completely. B. Be a productive member of society. C. Stay away from trouble and anyone who

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can get you into trouble. D. Make an effort to have a good relationship with your probation officer. E. Wait until you have completed half of your probation period. F. Comply with all of the terms of your probation.

14. Why don't more people get off probation early?

That's the million dollar question. I'd have to say it's because nobody even thinks to ask the judge to terminate their probation early. The judge in my case told my co-defendant that we were the first people who had ever asked her to terminate their probation early. She had been a judge for many years.

15. Why did you want to get off probation early? Is probation that bad?

I never liked being on probation for several reasons. First, in the back of my mind I constantly worried about being sent back to prison. You're not free as long as you're on probation. My probation officer had too much control over my life. Second, I didn't like all of the paperwork every month and the rules. I had to ask permission just to go to another state. This was a nightmare, because I only lived a few miles from another state. Once I had to cancel a last minute trip with my father because my probation officer didn't respond to my request to travel out of state. I wanted to spend time with my father because he's getting older and I want to spend as much time with him as I can. Third, I wanted to get off probation because then I'd be free to start rebuilding my life. I wasn't free as long as I was on probation.

There were many other things I didn't like about being on probation. Once, I had to drive a hundred miles to another city to give a sample of my DNA for a government database. This took my entire day. Also, the visits from my probation officer were always unexpected. My probation officer just showed up and wanted to ask me a few questions. I never knew when my probation officer was going to visit.

I desperately wanted to get off probation more than anything.

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16. Once I am off probation, what else can I do to improve my life?

If you were convicted of a state crime, work on having your criminal record expunged.

If you were convicted of a federal crime you want to try your best to receive a presidential pardon.

Set long and short term goals for yourself. This will help you to think about the future.

17. What other advice do you have for ex-offenders?

Stay away from illegal drugs and people who are involved in criminal activity. Always be a productive member of society and work towards improving your life. Maintain a positive attitude, spend your time with winners and avoid negative people. Never break the law again because it's not worth risking your freedom and going back to prison.

18. Do all employers run background checks on applicants?

No, many employers do not run background checks. It's expensive to run a thorough background check.

19. How many Americans have criminal records?

Millions and millions of Americans have criminal records. I've seen estimates that over forty-five million Americans have criminal records. The numbers are just staggering.

20. How do I get a job with a criminal record?

Move to a city that has a low unemployment rate. Make getting a job your fulltime job. Grab the best job you can get. Even if it's working at a fast food restaurant or digging ditches. Your life will get better once you are working fulltime. Earn your GED or go back to school and earn a degree or learn a skill that's in high demand.

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21. In your opinion, what are the biggest problems with the criminal justice system?

I wouldn't know where to begin. Books could be written on this topic. Overall, the system is hell bent on incarcerating as many people as possible. (The prison industrial complex provides a good living to the people who are part of it.) There's something wrong with a system that overwhelmingly incarcerates the poor, uneducated and members of minority groups. The statistics speak for themselves.

The American criminal justice system has its share of problems, but it's better than the justice system in most other countries. I'm grateful for the US Constitution and the legal rights all of us are given.

22. What is the greatest thing about living in America?

I love my country. I thank God everyday that I was fortunate enough to be born in America. It's the land of opportunity. America is the greatest country in the world. Everyone is given a second chance. You can achieve the American dream by working hard. Being born an American is like winning the lottery. People from many other countries would give anything to gain entry to America.

Inmates at federal prison camps (AKA club fed) have a higher standard of living than people in many developing countries.

23. What's the best thing about getting off probation early?

I'm a free man again. I can do anything I want to do. I can travel to another state or another country without having to ask for permission. Also, I don't have to worry about screwing up and being sent back to prison. Being completely free is great. I cherish every moment of my freedom. Life is good.

24. Do you provide fill in the blank forms I can use to write my motion?

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Yes. *Get Off Probation* includes fill in the blank forms you can use in writing your motion. Go to <http://www.getoffprobation.com/motion> or <http://www.tinyurl.com/getoffprobationfile>

25. Is it difficult to write a motion to terminate probation early?

My book tells you everything you need to ask the court to get off probation early. Step by step the process is explained in plain English.

26. Is it difficult to format a motion to terminate probation early?

It's not difficult to format your motion. The easiest way is to just copy the format of other documents in your case. You can also follow the formatting guidelines in the court rules. Judges generally grant defendants who are representing themselves some leeway.

27. Does my motion need to be 100% perfect to be accepted by the court?

Your motion usually doesn't have to be perfect. Try your best to make it look good. Federal judges have accepted hand written motions from prisoners. (Many prisoners don't have access to typewriters in prison.)

28. Why is your book the best on this topic?

This is the only book there is on how to get off probation early. *Get Off Probation* is written in plain English and it's easy to understand.

I explain, step by step, what I did to get off probation early. Also, the federal and state laws giving the courts the authority to let individuals off probation is included. *Get Off Probation* provides hope to many people that they could possibly also get off probation early.

The motion I submitted to the court to get off probation early was successful and it's included in the book. ***Get Off Probation provides all the information you need to ask the court to let you off probation early.***

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By reading *Get Off Probation*, you should be able to determine if you are a good candidate to get off probation early or if you need to wait before making your request to the court.

The sooner you get off probation the sooner you can start rebuilding your life. I wish each of you the best of luck in your efforts to get off probation early.