

## Background Questions

***“Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.”  
- Benjamin Franklin***

Questions about your background may come up during your interview. You may be asked:

- How did you get in trouble?
- I see you were convicted of a felony. What happened?
- How do I know you won't commit another crime?

Here are a few steps on how to proceed with answering these questions:

1. Own it. Make no excuses.
2. Explain how you feel about what you did and show remorse.
3. Explain what you have learned and/or accomplished from this.
4. Talk about what your new goals are.

**Do not go into all the details, but give them enough info so they don't have to ask follow-up questions.**

*For example: “Two years ago, I was living a life that I am not proud of now. I was convicted of drug possession, and during that time, I was making poor choices that were negatively affecting me and those close to me.”*

*For example: “Last year, I made the terrible decision to drive home after drinking, and I received a DUI, which made me stop and realize how recklessly and carelessly I was behaving.”*

Connect with your COIII to learn more about the Second Chance Centers. Upon release email [dersreentry@azdes.gov](mailto:dersreentry@azdes.gov) to connect with an employment specialist. You can also Schedule a Virtual Appointment to meet with an employment specialist from our DES website <https://des.az.gov/services/employment/job-seekers>