

Top 10 Questions Asked at...

Catholic Social Services (CSS)

1. How soon can I start looking for employment?

After the reentrant's intake has been completed the reentrant can start looking for work immediately. Even if the reentrant arrives after daily business hours, CSS has a computer library on site for the convenience of the reentrant. They are allowed to work on their resume, as well as apply to jobs online.

2. Is finding employment in the area easy?

Scranton and the local areas surrounding it have a fair amount of employment opportunities. Reentrants should level their expectations and be open to the possibilities of any and all kinds of employment. Whether the reentrant has had no job experience, or worked in a field for 20 years, our case manager will work tirelessly with them to find the right employment. Building the foundations of a good work history will start from the moment the reentrant accepts a job offer. It is important that the reentrant accept that job with the intention of building on that foundation.

3. I have almost no possessions. Can you help me with this?

CSS can help reentrants immediately with common hygiene products that are kept on site. In addition, the reentrant's case manager works closely with outside organizations such as Clothes Line for Men and Dress for Success. Through these contacts, we are able to procure for the reentrants exactly what they need for daily living, as well as other possible situations, such as job search attire.

4. My main goal is to reunite with my family and children. How soon can I see my kids?

Family is one of the main staples of reentry. Reentrants are not only allowed to go see their family, but encouraged to do so. CSS works with the SIP Coordinator, CFC, and Parole in setting up travel passes for reentrants who have family out of the area. While CSS encourages family reunions, there are other parts of the reentry program that must be completed in order for the reentrant to be able to have a travel pass. The first two weeks are considered the reentrant's orientation period. During this time, the reentrant can find employment, obtain identification, medical insurance, as well as fill various other reentry needs.

5. My family plans on coming to town, can we have visitors?

Yes. At CSS, we allow visitors during the weekend, Friday through Sunday from noon to 8 pm. If a reentrant works weekends, accommodations may be made so they can receive visitors during the week.

6. I'm not too familiar with the area. How will I find my way around?

Reentrants have access to our computer lab, where they can view and print out directions to any location they may be going to. They may also get directions from any staff member assisting them in their sign outs.

7. How quickly can I find an apartment and get released?

There is no set time table as to how fast or how slow a reentrant can find a home plan. Case management is here to assist all reentrants find a home plan, or facilitate their transition to their approved home plan. It is recommended that all reentrants find gainful employment or a means of income so that they can maintain their home plan.

8. What level of structure and support is offered in a given day?

All the tools for setting up a daily schedule are provided by CSS. We offer Case Management services to help each reentrant with finding employment, housing, insurance, travel and any other reentry care. CSS also provides food for the reentrants and a structured plan to assist in their reentry. A nutritionist has set a path to heart healthy food consumption, while the reentrant is still held responsible for setting up, cooking, and cleaning. The Securmanage System is utilized to help monitor the reentrant's daily movements. This may help in tracking employment efforts and treatment services.

9. Sobriety is very important, outside of my mandated treatment services. What other services are there?

CSS maintains an active list of NA and AA meetings that are held in the area. This list contains meetings that happen throughout the day, night and weekends. CSS also maintains a close relationship with the treatment providers in the area that work with state reentrants including DATS, A Better Today and Scranton Counseling Center. Working closely with counselors of these agencies and the case managers here at CSS, we become better equipped to help the needs of the reentrant.

10. Can I take Suboxone or Vivitrol while I'm here?

Yes. CSS allows for both the Vivitrol shot as well as for a reentrant to be placed on the Suboxone program (parole only). Dunmore Comprehensive Treatment Center offers a Suboxone program that monitors the intake of the pharmaceutical as well as the user's levels.