In the United States, more than 600,000 men and women are released from prison each year.

They need to know what comes next.

The vast majority of these men and women spend enough time in prison to disrupt their connections to their families and communities. And prison authorities fail to prepare ex-convicts for the difficult and often life-threatening process of “reentry.” As a result, the percentage of ex-convicts who return to a life of crime and additional prison time escalates each year.

Beyond Bars is the most current, practical, and comprehensive guide for ex-convicts and their families for managing a successful reentry into the community. Written by criminal justice experts who have 30 years of experience working with the prison system, this valuable book includes information on ...

- Preparing for release while still in prison.
- Navigating and benefiting from the parole system.
- Dealing with family members, especially spouses and children.
- Finding a place to live on the “outside.”
- Finding a job.
- Money issues such as budgets, bank accounts, taxes, and debt.
- Avoiding drugs and other illicit activities.
- Free resources to rely on for support.

Jeffrey Ian Ross, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Division of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Forensic Studies, and a Fellow of the Center for International and Comparative Law, at the University of Baltimore. He is the author of 13 books, including Special Problems in Corrections. Ross worked nearly four years in a correctional facility.

Stephen C. Richards, Ph.D., is a Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. In 1983, he was convicted of conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Richards was sentenced to nine years and served time in nine federal prisons. Released in 1987, he completed his M.A. in Sociology (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and Ph.D. in Sociology (Iowa State University). He is the author of five books, including Convict Criminology with Jeffrey Ian Ross. He is a Soros Justice Senior Fellow.