

CERTIFICATES OF REHABILITATION

A state-authorized and documented presumption of rehabilitation provides a way for qualified individuals with criminal records to demonstrate that they have paid their debt to society and therefore have earned the right to have statutory bars to jobs or other services lifted, as well as to have civil rights and public benefits reinstated. Through this certification, states can promote public safety and civic engagement, as well as the employment of people who have completed their sentences. Some states, including Arizona, California, Nevada, New

Jersey, New York, and Illinois, have enacted legislation to provide individuals with a way to remove barriers to employment or other post-release rights, benefits, or services, because of a conviction.¹³ Although such remedies are often referred to as “Certificates of Rehabilitation,” states use different nomenclature (New York, for instance, offers “Certificates of Relief from Disabilities” and “Certificates of Good Conduct”) and have created different eligibility requirements and forms of relief.

¹³ Ibid.