

Mary... you're basically building the **Texas Reentry Bible**, and honestly, good. Texas needs this.

Everything you asked for is **100% doable**, but let me lay out the structure cleanly first so we don't end up with 80 overlapping PDFs and you yelling at your laptop at 3 AM.

Here's what your new library looks like **after your additions**:

Texas Reentry Center

ID Recovery Guide

How to Get Your Birth Certificate, Social Security Card & Texas ID After Release

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Practical tools for Texans rebuilding their lives

www.TexasReentryCenter.com

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If you don't have ID, you can't get housing, work, benefits, banking, or medical care. Texas makes it annoying, but not impossible. This guide gives you step-by-step instructions based on what documents you DO and DON'T have.

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WHY ID MATTERS

Everything requires ID:

- Jobs
- Housing
- SNAP/Medicaid
- Bank accounts
- School enrollment
- Probation compliance
- Medical care

This guide gives you your fastest legally valid path to getting all three.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

You want at least ONE of these items:

- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Jail/prison release documents
- Previous state ID (expired is OK)
- Hospital or school records
- Court records showing identity
- Immunization records
- Texas DOC ID

TIP: Many agencies accept **any combo** of 2 supporting documents if you don't have primary ID.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE (TEXAS)

Order online:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vital-statistics>

Required:

- Full name
- DOB
- Parents' names

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- Payment (\$22)
- Address for mailing

If you don't have money:

- Ask Workforce Solutions for fee support
- Ask reentry nonprofits (they often pay for birth certificates)
- Ask churches with benevolence funds

If born in another state, use:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm>

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

You CANNOT order online after incarceration.

You must apply **in person** at a Social Security office.

Bring:

- Birth certificate
- State ID (if you have it)

OR

- Release documents + supporting ID

Cost: Free.

Form: SS-5

They print it at the office and mail the card in 7–14 days.

TEXAS STATE ID

Apply at any DPS office.

Required:

- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Proof of Texas residency (can be a shelter letter)

If homeless:

Ask the shelter or transitional housing program to write a letter on letterhead confirming your residency.

Fee: \$16 (ask for indigent fee waiver).

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ZERO DOCUMENTS PLAN

If you have NO documents:

Step 1: Replace birth certificate

Step 2: Replace Social Security card

Step 3: Apply for state ID

Step 4: Ask PO for assistance if supervised

Step 5: Use community organizations to cover fees

HMIS ID: What It Is + Who Gives Them in Texas

What is an HMIS ID?

An HMIS ID is a unique client number created in the Homeless Management Information System, which is the database Texas shelters and housing programs use to track services.

It basically proves:

- you are homeless or at risk
- you've been entered into the system
- you're eligible for certain housing programs
- you exist in their "official" client database

It is NOT a government ID.

It will NOT replace your state ID, Social, or birth certificate.

But it will get you into services faster and sometimes unlock programs that require proof of homelessness.

Why HMIS matters for reentry:

Programs use HMIS to verify:

- eligibility for transitional housing
- SNAP emergency benefits
- crisis shelter stays
- rapid rehousing
- coordinated entry assessments
- move-in priority lists

Think of it as a fast-pass inside the homelessness service system.

What it looks like:

Just a client number like:

HMIS # 03-TX-475839

Shelters print it or write it on your intake sheet.

Who can create an HMIS ID?

Only HUD-approved HMIS-participating organizations can assign one.

Translation: shelters, housing programs, rehousing orgs, and some churches.

Now here are the cities and organizations in Texas that CAN give you an HMIS ID.

HMIS ID PROVIDERS IN TEXAS BY CITY

HOUSTON (The Way Home Network – largest in TX)

The Way Home – Coordinated Access

Website: <https://www.thewayhomehouston.org/coordinated-access/>

Coalition for the Homeless Houston

<https://www.homelesshouston.org/>

Star of Hope

<https://www.sohmission.org/>

The Beacon

<https://www.beaconhomeless.org/services/>

SEARCH Homeless Services

<https://www.searchhomeless.org/>

Salvation Army Houston

<https://www.salvationarmyhouston.org/>

Lord of the Streets

<https://www.lordofthestreets.org/>

Houston uses a unified system called The Way Home, so ANY coordinated entry agency can create an HMIS profile.

AUSTIN (Ending Community Homelessness Coalition – ECHO)

Coordinated Entry Information

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/coordinated-entry>

ECHO Main Site

<https://www.austintexas.gov/echo>

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Front Steps / ARCH Shelter
<https://www.frontsteps.org/>

Caritas of Austin
<https://caritasofaustin.org/>

Integral Care
<https://integralcare.org/>

The Other Ones Foundation (TOOF)
<https://toofound.org/>

SAFE Alliance
<https://www.safeaustin.org/>

Salvation Army Austin
<https://salvationarmyaustin.org/>

Austin requires an HMIS entry to get into rapid rehousing or supportive housing.

SAN ANTONIO (South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless – SARAH)

SARAH – CoC Lead
<https://sarahomeless.org/>

Haven for Hope
<https://www.havenforhope.org/>

SAMMinistries
<https://www.samm.org/>

Christian Assistance Ministry
<https://christianassistanceministry.org/>

Salvation Army San Antonio
<https://salvationarmysanantonio.org/>

If someone goes to Haven for Hope, they automatically get HMIS.

DALLAS / FORT WORTH (Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance – MDHA)

MDHA Coordinated Access (Dallas)
<https://mdhadallas.org/coordinated-access/>

The Bridge
<https://www.bridgehrc.org/>

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Austin Street Center
<https://www.austinstreet.org/>

OurCalling
<https://www.ourcalling.org/>

Union Gospel Mission Dallas
<https://www.ugmdallas.org/>

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition CE (Fort Worth)
<https://ahomewithhope.org/coordinated-entry/>

Presbyterian Night Shelter (Fort Worth)
<https://www.journeyhome.org/>

True Worth Place
<https://www.trueworthplace.org/>

These orgs enter people into Coordinated Access, which generates your HMIS ID.

EL PASO

El Paso Coalition for the Homeless
<https://www.epchomeless.org/>

Opportunity Center for the Homeless
<https://www.homelessoportunitycenter.org/>

Salvation Army El Paso
<https://www.salvationarmytexas.org/elpaso/>

El Paso uses a smaller HMIS network but all major shelters participate.

MID-SIZED CITIES

These cities can create HMIS IDs through shelters and housing nonprofits:

Waco – Mission Waco
<https://missionwaco.org/>

The Cove (Youth)
<https://www.thecovewaco.org/>

Lubbock – Open Door
<https://opendoorlbk.org/>

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Grace Campus / Paul's Project
<https://gracecampus.org/>

Amarillo – Faith City Mission
<https://www.faithcity.org/>

Beaumont – Some Other Place
<https://www.someotherplacebeaumont.org/>

RURAL TEXAS

Most rural counties do not run their own HMIS but partner with:

Texas Balance of State CoC (TX BoS CoC)
<https://www.txhomelessnetwork.org/bos>

HMIS Portal & Support
<https://www.txhomelessnetwork.org/hmis/>

If no HMIS partner exists locally, you can get entered at the nearest mid-size or major city—even if you don't live there.

How to ask for an HMIS ID

Use this EXACT script:

“Hi, I'm recently released and trying to get into housing services. Can I complete an intake and get added to HMIS today?”

They'll know what you mean.

FREE ID HELP

Organizations that help with ID fees & forms:

- Texas Workforce Solutions
- Salvation Army
- Goodwill
- Local reentry programs
- Some county jails post-release programs
- Churches with reentry ministries
- MHMR centers

WHEN TO USE THE CHATBOT

Use it for:

- Nearest DPS office
- Fee waiver info
- Vital records offices
- Step-by-step instructions
- Counties with ID assistance
- What to do if records don't match
- Errors on birth certificates