



June 2023

Signing Up for Medicare After Jail or Incarceration

Did you miss your chance to sign up for Medicare because you were in jail or incarcerated? If you were released from custody on or after January 1, 2023, you can now sign up for Part A (Hospital Insurance), Part B (Medical Insurance), or both without paying a late enrollment penalty.

How does Medicare determine if I'm "incarcerated?"

Medicare uses data from the Social Security Administration to determine if you're incarcerated and eligible to sign up for Medicare. If you have questions about your Medicare eligibility, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.

When can I sign up?

You can sign up for Medicare starting the day you're released from custody. You'll have 12 full months from the day you're released to sign up through a Special Enrollment Period, and avoid a late enrollment penalty.

When will my coverage start?

You can choose for your Medicare coverage to start:

- The month after you sign up.
- Up to 6 months in the past (but not before your release date).

If you choose a coverage start date in the past:

And you sign up for Medicare:	Your coverage will start:	You'll be responsible for paying Medicare premiums:
Within the first 6 months of your release	On your release date	Back from the date your Medicare coverage began
7–12 months after your release	6 months before the month you sign up	Back from the date your Medicare coverage began

How do I sign up?

You can sign up by filling out form CMS-10797 at [CMS.gov/files/document/application-medicare-part-part-b-special-enrollment-period-exceptional-conditions.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/application-medicare-part-part-b-special-enrollment-period-exceptional-conditions.pdf) and mailing or faxing it to your local Social Security office. You can also call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.

Want to learn more about Medicare coverage?

- Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov).
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

You have the right to get Medicare information in an accessible format, like large print, braille, or audio. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit [Medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice](https://www.Medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

This product was produced at U.S. taxpayer expense.

