

# Probation

*Be Supported*



## What is Probation?

Probation is a sentence of the court that allows a young person/adult offender, to remain in the community under specific conditions.

In many instances, the court requires more information about a young person/adult offender before passing sentence and may ask a probation officer to prepare a Pre-Sentence Report. This report provides background information about the young person/adult offender's character, family involvement, peer group, employment, education and any other relevant information which helps the court to arrive at a decision on sentencing.

In addition to the pre-sentence report, the court also considers:

- the nature of the offence;
- protection and consideration of the community;
- victim impact statement; and
- any other information readily available at the time of sentence.

Probation is designed to encourage the young person/adult offender to become a more responsible person in the community and to live a law-abiding life, without necessarily being sentenced to custody.

Probation can last up to three years and includes one or a combination of the following conditions:

- report to a probation officer;
- abstain from alcohol and/or the non-medical use of drugs;
- perform community service;
- obtain psychiatric treatment;
- attend school;
- abstain from owning or possessing firearms;
- abstain from contact or association with certain persons;
- abstain from operating a motor vehicle;
- observe a specified curfew;
- participate and complete specific programs such as anger management or mental health counselling, under the supervision of a probation officer; and
- any other condition that might reasonably restrict the young person/adult offender and encourage a law-abiding lifestyle.

The appropriate condition(s) are contained in a probation order. Under certain circumstances, the probation order can be altered by the sentencing judge at the request of the young person/adult offender and in the case of a young person, a parent or guardian, the probation officer, or the crown prosecutor.

## What are the functions of a probation officer?

- prepare pre-sentence reports when requested by the courts;
- accept young persons/adult offenders on probation and other forms of community supervision;
- provide supervision, guidance and enforcement;
- report violations of the Probation Order to the police;
- develop case plans in collaboration with the young person/adult offender; and
- refer young persons/adult offenders to programs and monitors participation and attendance.

These referrals might involve:

- educational resources;
- alcohol and substances abuse rehabilitation programs; and
- mental health agencies, or, any other appropriate agency in the community.

Probation Officers also educate the public about the role of Probation Services, the criminal justice system, crime prevention, and the community's role in dealing with re-integrating the young person/adult offender. As with all corrections' programs, probation is designed to encourage responsible interaction between the young person/adult offender and the community while ensuring the safety of the public.

For further information, please contact an office in your area:

Bathurst, 547-2159

Big Cove, 523-8349

Bouctouche, 743-7233

Campbellton, 789-2339

Edmundston, 735-2030

Fredericton, 453-2367

Grand Falls, 473-7705

Miramichi, 627-4060

Moncton, 856-2313

Saint John, 658-2495

Shippagan, 336-3060

St. Stephen, 466-7510

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