

AN INTRODUCTION TO NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Community Corrections works to apply control over offenders while at the same time coordinate community resources to enable those under supervision the opportunity to reform, support their families, pay restitution or reparation to their victims and become productive, law abiding citizens.

The court may place a person on supervised or unsupervised probation. A person on unsupervised probation is subject to all incidents of probation except supervision by, or assignment to, a probation officer. Community Corrections has **no** authority over offenders on unsupervised probation. If offenders do not comply with the terms of the unsupervised sentence, the court may order them to complete a supervised probation sentence.

Ladder of Punishments

The foundation of Community Corrections' strategy is a continuum of control over the offender. The sanctions provide supervision and control over the offender and also require needed educational, vocational and alcohol/chemical dependency programming for the offender at a cost considerably below the cost of imprisonment.

Below you can read more about the various methods of supervision used by Community Corrections.

Intermediate Punishment

These punishments or sanctions are more restrictive than probation and less severe than imprisonment. These punishments may include:

Split Sentence (special probation)

A court-imposed intermediate sanction for probationers that requires the offender to submit to a period of imprisonment, not to exceed six months, followed by a term of probation under an intermediate level of probation supervision.

Residential Community Corrections

Offenders are required, as a condition of probation, to live in a specified facility for a set period of time. Offenders may be ordered to participate in activities such substance abuse treatment, social skills training, education, employment, and employment training.

Electronic House Arrest (EHA)

The offender must wear a transmitting device, and a monitoring device must be placed in the offender's residence for the duration of the sanction. The offender is confined to the residence at all times, except for occasions that the court, probation officer, or Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission may authorize.

Day Reporting Centers

Offenders are required to report to a specified facility on a daily basis for a specified length of time. Offenders may be ordered to participate in activities such as alcohol or drug dependency treatment, anger management, cognitive thinking, psychological counseling, social skills training, education, or employment training. Some offenders are required to adhere to a daily program schedule and curfew.

Intensive Supervision

This type of supervision is reserved for higher risk offenders. These offenders are either initially sentenced by the court, released on post-release supervision or paroled by the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission, or placed as a result of a probation violation. Through enhanced interaction, the offender is provided with a balance of control and assistance by addressing those factors that contribute to the likelihood that an offender will go to prison. After successful completion, the offender will be moved to intermediate level II supervision.

Community Punishment

This type of supervision is more commonly known as a more traditional form of supervision where offenders are monitored by their probation officer (primarily through visits by the offender to the probation office), must adhere to any court ordered conditions and meet with their probation officer on an established schedule.

Community Service Work Program

As a condition of supervision offenders may be ordered to complete a certain number of community service hours and pay a community service fee of \$200.00.

Victim Services Within Community Corrections

There are four victim advocate coordinators who provide advocacy for victims of domestic violence and sex offenses as it relates to offenders who are supervised by Community Corrections.

The victim advocate coordinator can offer comprehensive answers to the victims' questions as it relates to the supervision of the offender. The coordinators also act as liaisons between Community Corrections (including the probation officer), district attorneys, clerks of court and the Adult Correction Victim Unit.

Victims who have specific questions regarding the supervision of an offender are encouraged to contact the advocate in their region. Each victim advocate coordinator has received specialized training to perform this important function. You may contact the Adult Correction Victim Unit to obtain VAC contact information for your area. All victims' information is strictly confidential.

Notifications for Victims/Survivors Whose Offenders are in Community

Corrections Custody

Effective July 1, 1999, North Carolina Crime Victims' Rights Act (N.C.G.S. §15A-837) requires Community Corrections to provide written notification about certain events during the offenders' supervision to victims and survivors who have requested notification.

Community Corrections notifies victims by automation from the central office in Raleigh, N.C. Currently, the victim advocate notification coordinator and two processing assistants work from the central office to ensure accuracy of the letters and to assist with victim calls as it relates to the notification process. Staff is also available to answer questions concerning restitution as it relates to offenders who are under the supervision of Community Corrections.

The primary function of the Victim Notification Program is to ensure that victim notifications are correct according to statute. Notification letters are generated by updates made to offenders' records in the OPUS (Offender Population Unified System) computer system. Notifications are printed and mailed by the data processing assistants.

DCC is required to provide registered victims with the following notifications:

- (1) The defendant's regular conditions of probation or post-release supervision, special or added conditions, supervision requirements, and any subsequent changes.
- (2) The date and location of any hearing to determine whether the defendant's supervision should be revoked, continued, modified, or terminated.
- (3) The final disposition of any hearing referred to in subdivision (2) of this section.
- (4) Any restitution modification.
- (5) The defendant's movement into or out of an intermediate sanction as defined in G.S. 15A-1340.11.
- (6) The defendant's absconding supervision, within 72 hours.
- (7) The capture of a defendant described in subdivision (6) of this section, within 72 hours.
- (8) The date when the defendant is terminated or discharged.
- (9) The defendant's death.

Although the 1999 NC Crime Victims' Rights Act defines who is to receive notification (N.C.G.S. §15A-830), the Division of Adult Correction voluntarily exceeded the legislature's mandate by providing the notification described above for all victims regardless of the crime or when the crime occurred.

It is important to note that it is the responsibility of those who have requested notification to notify the Victim Notification Program of any changes in address or telephone number. Without this information, the Division of Adult Correction is

unable to provide notification to those who have requested it. Please send correspondence to:

N.C. Adult Correction
Victim Unit
2020 Yonkers Road, 4223 MSC
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4223
1-866-719-0108 (toll-free)