

Our Department is responsible for overseeing orders from the Court as it relates to:

- Juvenile Offenders
- Adult Misdemeanor Offenders
- Adult Gross Misdemeanor Offenders

Our Department does not supervise adult felony offenders. These offenders are supervised by the State Department of Corrections.

MISSION and GOALS

Pine County Probation's mission, under the direction of the Tenth Judicial Bench in Pine County, is to develop, provide, and promote effective probation services that contribute to a safer community. The goals include:

- Public Safety
- Offender Accountability
- Competency Development
- Community & Victim Restoration
- Operational Efficiency

INVESTIGATION

Prior to making a final disposition or sentence, the Court may order the Probation Department to assist with or complete an investigation. The type of investigation may vary by name, but the purpose is the same – provide the Court with background information. This gives the Judge more information to make an appropriate disposition or sentence.

SUPERVISION

Once the Court Orders an offender's disposition or sentence, there are often conditions that need to be monitored. These conditions may include:

- Law abiding behavior
- Jail sentences
- Consequence detention placements
- Financial obligations – fines, fees, and/or restitution.
- Community Service Work
- Electronic Monitoring and/or house arrest
- Education programs
- Further assessments for mental health, chemical dependency, psychosexual, anger or other issues

that may have contributed to the delinquent or criminal behavior.

- Treatment programs that might be either outpatient or inpatient.
- Abstaining from the use of alcohol and illegal drugs.
- Random alcohol and drug testing.

Probation is the means to ensure these conditions are completed timely. When conditions are not met, the Probation Officer is obligated to try to ensure the offender is in compliance or bring them back to Court before the Judge.

PROGRAMMING

Our Department has several programs that address special offender and/or correctional issues.

Juvenile Diversion

This program has been in existence since 1976 for the first-time petty offender as an alternative to going to Court before a Judge. Although the amount of intervention has changed over the years, the program still helps youth headed in a wrong direction to change their behavior and thinking at an early stage. The most common offenses diverted into this program include underage drinking, tobacco use, disorderly conduct and shoplifting. The youth and parents meet with the Diversion Agent and agree to a contract that may include an educational program or workbook, victim apology letters, community service hours, and/or restitution for damages. The benefit of successful completion and ongoing law abiding behavior is the absence of a juvenile court record.

Electronic Monitoring

Frequently offenders are placed on the Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitor – REAM (mostly adult DWI offenders) or an ankle bracelet (house arrest). Voice verification is also utilized. Electronic Monitoring allows the offender to continue living in the community instead of jail or a juvenile detention facility. The purposes of the program include:

- Ensure public safety
- Provide offender accountability
- Shape positive behavior

- Minimize jail or detention time
- Save correctional dollars.

The REAM device alerts the monitoring company when an offender has been drinking. The bracelet device alerts the monitoring company when the offender fails to remain in their home during the required time periods. If permitted by the Court, both can be set up to allow the offender to go to work and/or school. Violations are reported to the Probation Department. Violators risk termination from the monitor and will likely receive additional consequences including a possible return to jail or detention.

Pine County started the REAM program in 1998 when state grant dollars become available. These limited state dollars are available to defray the cost for indigent DWI offenders. A sliding fee scale exists to assist parents with the cost of Electronic monitoring for juvenile offenders.

Repeat DWI ISP Program

Repeat DWI offenders may be ordered by the Court to complete the ISP (Intensive Supervision Program) which has been in existence since 1999. The program is designed to combine a combination of intensive probation supervision and programming that focuses on chemical dependency and recovery. Participation in the ISP program is in lieu of extended jail sentences. The average length of the program is one year. The ISP program involves three phases with decreasing intensity. Program components include electronic home alcohol monitoring, completion of chemical dependency programming, MADD Impact Panel, Cognitive Skills Program, and the AA orientation program. The offenders are subject to unannounced home visits and drug tests to ensure that they are complying with no use conditions and are completing treatment programs.

Juvenile ISR Program

In 2002, on the heels of an unprecedented year of out-of-home placement costs, the ISR (Intensive Supervision Rehabilitation) program was developed

to put these serious juvenile offenders into a small-specialized caseload. The ISR agent takes significantly more time with each offender and creates a highly specific plan for the offender to follow. The goals are to reduce recidivism rates and out-of-home placements for these high-risk offenders. This caseload includes the majority of sex offenders, EJJ (Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction) sentences, state commitments and cases assessed as high risk.

Like the ISP program, there are phases the juvenile offender must pass through of decreasing intensity. The agent makes frequent unannounced visits and there is regular drug testing. Treatment programs are closely monitored. When juveniles do leave a placement the agent makes sure there is a coordinated case plan that involves parents, schools, and ongoing programming in the juvenile's home community. This increases the juvenile's chance of success when they do come out of placement.

Cognitive Skills Program

This program is designed to educate offenders about healthy thinking patterns and decision-making. Offenders are ordered by the Court to take the class. Probation agents make the referrals and the department contracts with facilitators who teach the class. The curriculum includes topics such as responsibility, the reality model, handling aggression and anger, interpersonal skills, and victim empathy. There is both an adult and juvenile class that is 10 weeks long with one two-hour class weekly. Satisfactory completion depends upon full attendance and participation and is aimed at improving life skills that will encourage law-abiding behavior.

Restorative Justice Panels

The first Restorative Justice Panel started in 2004 in Pine City as an initiative that came out of the Probation Advisory Committee. Since then the program has expanded to the communities of Hinckley and Northern Pine County. Probation agents accept the referrals come from both the County Attorney's office as a diversionary program

and also from the Court as an alternative to probation. Juveniles who commit property crimes are the target offender. The probation agents coordinate a meeting of the juvenile and his or her parents with a community panel. The community represents the victim. The juvenile must admit to the offense. At the meeting a contract is written on how the juvenile will repair the harm caused by their offense and become positively involved in their home community. Contract components may include but are not limited to; a letter of apology, community service work, counseling, driver's license suspension, curfew, drug testing, and educational programming.

COST

The cost of the Pine County Probation department is shared by:

- County dollars
- State dollars
- Offenders

The State reimburses the County up to 50% of each probation agent's salary and benefits. Adult probationers are assessed a local correctional fee for each case they are sentenced on. Offenders also pay for the cost of testing materials, workbooks, cognitive skills classes, drug testing, the DWI ISP program, and electronic monitoring administrative costs.

In addition to the above-described programs, we provide information and direction for offenders to various programs and services that have been ordered by the Court.

We hope this information will help you understand the function of the Probation Department and our place in the criminal justice process.

If you have questions regarding these programs, please feel free to ask one of the office staff or probation agents.

PROBATION- WHAT WE DO.



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