



PACS
OFFENDERS CAN CHANGE



PROBATION ORDERS PROGRAMME

PAMPHLET

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ABOUT US

INTRODUCTION

Probation and Aftercare Service is a criminal justice agency in the State Department for Correctional Services, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Kenya.

Probation and Aftercare Service provides community correctional Services countrywide, and is committed to reforming lives and building safer communities. We driven by the belief that individuals have in themselves the ability to change.

MANDATE

Probation and Aftercare Service derives its main mandate from the Probation of Offenders Act CAP 64 and the Community Service Orders Act CAP 93 in relation to management of offenders in the community and provision of social inquiry reports

VISION

A just, safe, secure and crime-free society.

MISSION

To Promote and enhance the administration of justice, community safety and public protection through provision of social inquiry reports, supervision and reintegration of non-custodial offenders, victim support and social crime prevention.

CORE VALUES

Probation and Aftercare Service is committed to courtesy and excellence in service delivery and is guided by the following core values:

- Fairness
- Respect for human dignity
- Reliability
- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- Professionalism

WHAT IS PROBATION?

What is Probation?

This is a non-custodial sentencing method to which an offender is sentenced by the court of law. The offender serves the sentence period while living in the community and is assisted by the Probation Officer to adjust to non-criminal life by leading organized and positive life. A period on probation ranges between six (6) months and three (3) years. An offender sentenced to serve a period on probation is called a Probationer.

The role of Probation

Probation and Aftercare Service has a crucial role to play in economic and social development of the country.

The objectives of the Probation are to:

- Ensure harmony by engaging in general crime prevention activities in the community.
- Rehabilitate offenders in the community.
- Reduce government expenditure on imprisonment.
- Correct recurring offending behavior through community-based correctional behavioral programmes.
- Assist offenders to be law abiding productive citizens.
- Help offenders leaving correctional facilities to resettle and reintegrate to the community through aftercare.

Who is a Probation Officer?

This is an officer of the court under whose care the offender is placed by a court of law. He/she is a highly trained person in community based correctional methods. His/her task and responsibility is to ensure that offenders placed under his/her care are well integrated in the community where they belong.

Who qualifies as a Probationer?

Any person charged in court for any offence can be a probationer. However, not all offenders may be sentenced to probation. This is because some offenders are found unsuitable for this method of community corrections and can only be corrected through other methods like imprisonment. There is no age or gender discrimination while considering an offender for probation.

CONDITIONS OF A PROBATION ORDER

Any person who has been sentenced to serve a period on probation must adhere to certain conditions which are usually read and explained to him/her in detail by the Probation Officer. These conditions are as follows:

1. To be of good conduct during the probation period.
2. To report to the Probation Officer once a month or as frequently as required.
3. Not to associate with any person who the probation officer considers unsuitable.
4. To expect visits by the Probation Officer any day.
5. Answer all questions asked by the Probation Officer truthfully and in good faith.
6. Report any change of employment or residence to the Probation Officer immediately.
7. Make effort of acquiring and being steady in employment as well as follow each advice given by the Probation Officer in this regard.
8. Avoid overindulgence in alcohol or any other intoxicating substance.
9. Follow any other conditions as ordered by the court.

A Probationer who goes contrary to the conditions of the order may be punished for the offence for which he/she was placed on probation or for breaching the conditions of the Probation Order.

Community participation in Probation Activities

For community based correctional activities and programmes to succeed, community participation at all levels is very crucial. In probation the local community is involved right from the time the case is referred, to the time the offender is placed on probation supervision and until completion of the Probation Order. The community assists by:-

- Providing accurate and truthful information as required by the probation officer
- Accepting the Probationers and assisting them resettle in their homes.
- Monitoring the character and conduct of the Probationer and giving a feedback report to the Probation Officer.
- Offering Probationers employment, taking them back to school if young, enlisting them in community development groups, etc.
- Cultivating harmony and cordial relationship between the Probationer and offended parties.

PROBATION INSTITUTIONS

Probation Hostels

Some Probationers come from a home environment that is hostile to their proper resettlement. Such probationers are taken to institutions referred to as a Probation Hostel. Hostels are places of temporary residence for probationers who cannot go back home immediately they are sentenced to serve a period of probation. One can be in a hostel for a maximum period of twelve (12) months while the Probation Officer is making efforts for them to be accepted and resettled at home.

Hostel Activities

The Probation Hostel is not a prison and does not have any resemblance to a prison. While in the hostel, probationers are not restricted but made free to move about. Some employed probationers go about their work outside the hostel and come back in the evening. School going children and job seekers likewise go about their activities unhindered. However, this is on condition that they maintain good behavior during their period of stay.

There are a number of activities probationers can occupy themselves with during their stay in the hostel. These activities include masonry, carpentry, home economics, blacksmiths, dressmaking and tailoring, adult literacy classes and shoe making. There is also constant counseling by Probation Officers who administer the hostels.

Admission to Hostels

Any category of probationers are admissible to the hostels. However, there are basic conditions, which must be fulfilled before one is accepted. These are:

- A court of law must order the stay at the hostel.
- Vacancy must have been applied for and confirmed.
- Must be medically fit and certified by a doctor.

Probation Community Resource Training Centers (PCRTC)

These are centers for skill and personal empowerment for youths aimed at crime prevention.

Activities at the Probation Community Resource Training Centers

Activities in the centers include skills empowerment, family guidance and counselling, rehabilitation of youths and library services.

CONTACT US

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