

Important Public Information Provided by Probation

State crime trend information such as court arraignment statistics, including:

- Drunk driving.
- Domestic abuse.
- Substance abuse.

The following commissioned studies conducted by the Research Department are available:

- **Restraining Order Violations, Corrective Programming, and Recidivism.**
- **Batterers Intervention Programs.**
- **Domestic Violence Special Report: Serial Batterers.**
- **In Jeopardy and At Risk: CHINS Cases in Massachusetts.**
- **Sex Offenders: A Ten-Year Longitudinal Study.**
- **Violent Criminals on Probation in the Bay State.**

Hours of Operation

The Massachusetts Probation Service and the Office of Community Corrections are offices of the Massachusetts Trial Court and therefore maintain the same office hours of operation as the court system, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

When requesting statistical data or information on a probationer's status, call or email your request to the Communications Department at the Office of the Commissioner of Probation no later than 2:30 p.m. for same day results.

For more detailed information and or copies of studies, please allow several days for the processing of your request.

**Communications Department
Office of the Commissioner of
Probation
One Ashburton Place, Room 405
Boston, MA**

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A Probation Primer:

A Guide to the Massachusetts Probation Service and the Office of Community Corrections



Probation is a court-ordered sanction placed on a person by a judge. The offender is allowed to remain in the community under the strict supervision of a Probation Officer.

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation

The **Office of the Commissioner of Probation (OCP)** is a department of the Massachusetts Trial Court. The Commissioner of Probation is comprised of the Massachusetts Probation Service and the Office of Community Corrections.

The Probation Officers, who work for the Massachusetts Probation Service, are assigned by the Commissioner of Probation to five divisions of the Massachusetts Trial Court Department which are located in courts throughout the Commonwealth. There are probation departments in each of the 12 Superior Courts, 62 District Courts, the eight divisions of the Boston Municipal Courts, the 11 divisions of the Juvenile Courts, and the 12 divisions of the Probate & Family Courts.

Release of Information on Probationers

The Massachusetts Probation Service is **not subject** to the Public Information Act, according to the **General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 276, Section 100** (see box to the right).

Information on probationer status is provided to the press and the general public **as a courtesy**. A probation spokesperson will confirm the following:

- A person is on probation.
- A probationer is or is not in compliance with the terms of their probation.

Youthful Offenders (ages 14 to 17) are subject to the same disclosure as adults. In Massachusetts, a Youthful Offender is a person who has committed an offense that would be punishable by imprisonment in the state prison if the person were an adult who has: (a) previously been committed to the Department of Youth Services or (b) committed an offense which involves the infliction of or threat of serious bodily harm or (c) committed certain other offenses, according to the “Handbook of Legal Terms for Judicial Branch Personnel,” published by the Judicial Institute. Probation information will not be provided on juvenile offenders.

General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 276, Section 100: Detailed reports of probation work; records; accessibility of information.

“Information so obtained and recorded shall not be regarded as public record and shall not be open for public inspection but shall be accessible to the justices and probation officers of the courts....”

Office of Community Corrections

The Office of Community Corrections is an office of the Commissioner of Probation. There are 21 Community Corrections sites throughout the state. The Community Corrections Centers, including Juvenile and Women’s Resource Centers, serve as an alternative to incarceration. There are Probation Officers In Charge assigned to each of the 21 centers.

Community Corrections Centers are community-based supervision sites where offenders must check-in regularly. The centers provide substance abuse treatment, GED preparation and job training.

There is also a community service component offered through the Office of Community Corrections. Offenders, sentenced to community service, give back to the community by participating in community service projects such as the clean-up of parks, snow removal, the delivery of food to soup kitchens, moving of furniture, and other meaningful community-focused projects.

The Office of Community Corrections also adheres to the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 276, Section 100.