

What is Probation?



Probation officer meets with probationer at the counter.

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 goal of the Massachusetts Probation Service is to help keep communities safe and to provide probationers with the rehabilitative tools they need to live a safe and law-abiding life.

MPS has the distinction of being the nation's first Probation Service. It was established in 1841 by Boston shoemaker John Augustus.

Need more information?

Go to www.mass.gov/courts/probation

Interested in jobs at MPS?

Check out: www.mass.gov/courts/probation/jobs

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation



Edward J. Dolan, Commissioner

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation (OCP) is the administrative office for the Massachusetts Probation Service and the Office of Community Corrections and the Massachusetts Trial Court Community Service Program.

Office of the Commissioner of Probation

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The Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS)



**Empowering through
Partnerships**



Probation Officers greet probationer in community.

MPS is a department of the Massachusetts Trial Court. MPS staffs 105 separate probation offices; most of these are located in courthouses. The following offices and units comprise MPS's

Field Services Division

- *District (62) and Boston Municipal Courts (8)* handle criminal cases.
- *Superior Court (12)* handles more serious criminal cases.
- *Juvenile Court (11)* provides support to children and families in three areas: care and protection cases, children requiring assistance (CRA), and delinquency cases.
- *Probate and Family Court (12)* supports families when there are disputes regarding the best interest of the children involved, such as in divorce, paternity, guardianship and adoption.

Probation's important role

In criminal cases, probation officers partner with local law enforcement and treatment agencies to enhance community safety, ensure compliance with court orders, and encourage lasting change in the probationers we serve.

Probation officers meet with probationers in our offices and in the community to support their success with court orders and treatment plans. Probation officers work with families and children in non-delinquency cases strive for the best outcomes for court-involved children. These probation officers are also responsible for ensuring court orders are followed with regards to support payments, visitation, and sobriety.

In addition to providing referrals to community providers, MPS supports Trial Court initiatives and programs such as the Specialty Courts. MPS established or played a pivotal role in creating Changing Lives through Literature and Parenting Programs.

Victim Services Unit: MPS has created a statewide Victim Services Unit which supports victims and survivors of crime during a defendant's probation.

Electronic Monitoring (ELMO): The MPS ELMO center conducts 24/7/365 electronic monitoring of pre-trial defendants, probationers and parolees, as ordered by the courts.

Interstate Compact: The MPS Interstate Unit manages the transfer of probationers to and from other states to ensure supervision of conditions of probation is continuous after relocation.

Office of Community Corrections/Community Service

The MPS Office of Community Corrections (OCC) sponsors 16 Community Corrections Centers across the Commonwealth. The Centers provide an alternative to incarceration as well as rehabilitative services and on-site monitoring. Participants may attend full or part-time. Services include anger management, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and other evidence-based interventions to help each individual maintain a sober and law-abiding life in the community.

OCC also operates the Trial Court's Community Service Program. Participants provide restitution in the form of "giving back" to their communities through a variety of pro-social activities such as cleaning up parks, schools, and roadsides. Other projects include service in food pantries, painting, repairs and snow removal. The services may be accessed by state agencies and non-profits to derive a valuable public service.

MPS Records Unit

MPS is also responsible for ensuring the accuracy of, maintaining and updating Court Activity Record Information (CARI) and the civil Restraining Order Registry. MPS's Sealing Unit handles petitions to seal criminal records.

Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS) Mission Statement:

The Massachusetts Probation Service's mission is to increase community safety, reduce recidivism, contribute to the fair and equitable administration of justice, support victims and survivors, and assist individuals and families in achieving long-term positive change.