

you a formal warning. If you have more than two formal warnings, we must return the case to court.

If we take breach proceedings, all the sentencing options will be available to the court and they may sentence you for the original offence.

## Probation supervision

During the first three months of a probation order, you must have contact with the supervising social worker every week. You must have two home visits within the first three months, and more often for some offenders.

We will review your progress after three months, six months and then every six months after that. The reviews will show the areas of significant progress or concern and plan and agree the work that should be done in the next stage of the order. After a review we can decide to ask the court to discharge the order because you have made good progress, or to change the conditions of the existing order because your circumstances have changed.

The address of your supervising social work officer is:

### Angus Council Social Work

Criminal Justice Services

9 Fergus Square

Arbroath DD11 3DG.

Phone: 01241 871161

(out-of-hours answer phone)

Fax: 01241 431898



You are entitled to make a complaint during the probation order if you feel that you have not been treated properly. If this happens, you should speak to your social worker or senior social worker who will tell you about your rights to complain.

R Peat, Director of Social Work and Health  
April 2000



SOCIAL WORK and HEALTH

# A GUIDE TO PROBATION

Services to the Criminal Justice System



## WHAT IS PROBATION?

Probation is a court arrangement which requires an offender to be supervised by social work in the community.

- Courts can make probation orders for any period between six months and three years.
- Supervision will involve office interviews and home visits. The main purpose of probation is to give you advice and help, if you need it, to prevent you from offending again.
- We will monitor the offender, where necessary.

## Conditions of probation

---

For all probation orders, you must:

- behave well;
- follow the directions of the supervising officer; and
- tell the supervising officer if you change your address or job.

As well as these basic rules, courts may specify that you must:

- have medical treatment, for example, psychiatric or psychological treatment;
- attend programmes that are run for particular offences; and
- live at a particular place.

If you are placed on a probation order, you must agree to follow the conditions of the order.

## Breaking your probation

---

One of the social worker's main jobs is to make sure that you co-operate with the order. This supervision should be consistent and fair and the directions should be reasonable.

If you are convicted for another offence, the social worker must tell the court that set the probation order.

The only acceptable reasons for not following any of the rules of the order are if:

- you have a doctor's certificate;
- you have explained beforehand and your social worker has agreed: or
- if something happens unexpectedly relating to your job or home life.

If you do not follow these rules, we will always take breach proceedings and return the case to court. In less serious situations, the social worker can give