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NEBRASKA JUDICIAL BRANCH SERVICES QUICK LOOK

Nebraska Probation - Supportive Services

Rehabilitative Services supports the Administrative Office of Probation's mission by providing access to behavioral health and supportive services through exceptional technical assistances developing and maintaining a network of quality providers, defining service standards, and ensuring service fidelity while decreasing financial barriers for justice-involved individuals.

Origin & Authorization

Nebraska Revised Statute § 29-2262 (Probation; conditions)

Nebraska Revised Statute § 29-2262.04 (Intensive supervision probation programs; contents; supervision required; electronic monitoring device or system; cost.)

Nebraska Revised Statute § 29-2259 (Probation administrator; office; salaries; expenses; office space; prepare budget; interpreter services.)

Nebraska Revised Statutes § 60-6,211.09 (Continuous alcohol monitoring devices)

Nebraska Revised Statutes § 60-6,211.05 (Ignition interlock device, continuous alcohol monitoring device and abstention from alcohol use)

Service Overview

Supportive Services encompass a variety of tools and field-monitoring strategies utilized to help track progress, report information to the supervising officer and monitor conditions of individuals on Probation, Post Release Supervision or involved in Problem-Solving Courts. Services such as electronic monitoring, electronic reporting, and substance use testing are used to enhance supervision, encourage sobriety, as well as promote adherence to schedules and overall accountability. Justice-involved youth may be referred to an array of supportive services most appropriate for their developmental stage and risk level that support successful completion of probation. These services may include electronic monitoring, tracking services, educational support and other interventions to improve youth accountability and improve family functioning. Supportive Services are typically offered in conjunction with case management strategies to maximize support and motivation for lasting positive behavioral change.

Programs

» Electronic Monitoring (EM)

Electronic Monitoring encompasses two types of monitoring to enhance supervision: Radio Frequency (often referred to as House Arrest) and Global Positioning System (GPS). The population most appropriate for these strategies is individuals with higher-risk/higher-needs with respect to alcohol use and/or those who require intensive supervision, such as curfew or location restrictions, to reduce their risk of returning to the justice system. Electronic Devices that help monitor and address high-risk substance using behaviors of clients in relation to their probation conditions include:

- Continuous Alcohol Monitoring
- Remote Alcohol Testing
- Ignition Interlock Device

While none of these devices can guarantee community safety or exclusively manage behavior, monitoring does allow an individual to be supervised in the community while participating in pro-social activities such as employment, education and treatment.

Priorities

» Electronic Reporting

The *Electronic Reporting System*, or ERS, functions as an automated telephone system. Toll-free calls from probationers are recorded as a supplement to traditional face-to-face reporting in order to ensure regular periodic contact. This offers a systematic process to submit monthly supervision reports and share information electronically between low-risk probationers and their supervising Probation Officer. Use of this technology furthers Probation's client-centered focus and improved client accountability.

» Substance Use Testing Program

Individuals on Probation, Post Release Supervision or involved in Problem-Solving Courts with identified substance use issues or disorders, who are placed in this program, are subject to random, unannounced substance use testing to assist in establishing a period of sobriety. Effective alcohol and other substance testing is an integral part of effective community supervision and can provide an objective measure of treatment effectiveness. Substance use testing also supports a youth or adult in recovery in maintaining accountability, prevent relapse, and accomplish personal wellness goals. The results of these tests can provide the basis for incentives, sanctions and treatment adjustments that are the underlying pillars for participant success. As alcohol and other substances vary substantially in their windows of detection, a variety of sanctioned testing methodologies are available to assist individuals in abstaining from substance use. Drug screens are conducted on-site, in-home and in the field utilizing multiple matrices such as urine analysis, mouth swabs, sweat patches and preliminary breath tests. The Supportive Services Specialist ensures that all procedures regarding confirmation of positive tests results and protocols for chain of custody are followed.

- Nebraska Probation conducts over 400,000 drug and alcohol tests for youth and adults annually.
- Establishment of monthly in-person training at the State Probation Drug Testing Lab in Papillion for all new Drug Technicians.
- Creation and implementation of two new job classifications, which further professionalize the drug-testing workforce:
 - The Substance Use Monitor coordinates scheduling, conducts orientation to the substance use-testing program and makes individualized referrals to testing groups consistent with the court order and in conjunction with a supervising probation officer.
 - The Lab Technician manages the day-to-day laboratory operations including specimen preparation, analysis and data entry for samples submitted for immune-analysis testing and adheres to protocols and quality measures to ensure proper maintenance of equipment and accuracy of reported test results.

Accomplishments

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References

Nebraska Supreme Court Website: <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/probation/community-based-programs-field-services-division>