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NEBRASKA JUDICIAL BRANCH SERVICES QUICK LOOK

Nebraska Probation - Supportive Services

Rehabilitative Services, within the Administrative Office of Probation, works with Probation Officers and Registered Service Providers statewide to ensure justice-involved individuals have access to quality behavioral health and supportive services that improve supervision outcomes and reduce the risk of recidivism. Rehabilitative Services engages financial assistance, when appropriate, to remove barriers to needed services.

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 is the umbrella term that encompasses two types of monitoring: Radio Frequency 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 to reduce their risk of returning to the justice system. Neither Radio Frequency nor GPS guarantee community safety, but each tool is useful in enhancing the supervision of the individual. 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

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 positive tests results and protocols for chain of command and confirmation are followed.

Accomplishments

- Nebraska Probation conducts over 400,000 drug and alcohol tests for youth and adults annually.
- Nebraska Probation's Substance Use Testing Policy and Protocol were updated and revised in June 2018. These updates reinforce the practice of smart testing and emphasize safety precautions for all clients and staff.
- Orientation for new Drug Technicians has been revamped and now includes a 3-day in-person training at the State Probation Drug Testing Lab in Papillion to ensure consistency with the protocol and best practices for onsite urine collection and analysis.
- Nebraska Probation recently expanded to a second drug-testing confirmation instrument to accommodate the high volume of tests that require secondary confirmation. The availability of another analyzer will also provide greater opportunity for contingency planning should the Statewide Lab require additional back up.

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References

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