
HELPFUL TIP - PROBATION AND PAROLE

How can a parent work with probation and parole as a team?

Parents often ask questions about how they can talk with their child's probation and parole officer; how they can work as a team with probation and parole to support their child. Sara Bremser, a Probation and Parole Officer and member of our Parent Addiction Network, provides the following answers to these parent questions.

QUESTION: As a parent, what can I do to help the Probation and Parole Agent?

- Initiate contact with the agent. Ask your child who her probation agent is. Or, go to the website <http://doc.wi.gov/community-resources/probation-parole> and check the Regional community corrections office link. Dane, Rock and Green counties are in Region 1. The Region 1 main office phone # is 608-240-3830.
- Share pertinent historical information with the agent; for example your child's use of drugs; concerns you have; individuals you think the child shouldn't see; past incidences that might help the agent better understand your child's situation.
- Ask the agent to call you if there are new concerns. Or, if you have any concerns, call the agent. Remember, however, that agents are busy and your child is not their only case.

QUESTION: What should I ask my child to do?

- Ask your child to sign a release of information. If your child is living with you, the agent can require the offender to sign a release of information.

QUESTION: What happens when my child is taken into custody?

- It takes 3-6 business days for all information about the case to be compiled. At that point, you can call the agent and say, "My child is in custody, when you have the disposition, would you please call and let me know?"

QUESTION: What rights do parents have?

- Parents always have the right to submit an open records request form to view file information. Requests are made to the child's Probation and Parole Agent. Please note a release of information for confidential information and treatment information will be needed.
- Right to ask your child to sign the release of information for the release of confidential information.
- You can always initiate contact with the agent and share as much information as you want. The agent, on the other hand, needs a signed release in order to share certain information, for example such as pertaining to Protected Health Information i.e., substance abuse diagnosis, substance use and treatment.