

PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES

Belleville Probation Parole Service 15 Victoria Avenue, 3rd floor Belleville, ON	Phone: 613-968-5737 Fax: 613-968-7951
Email:	
Website:	

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Introduction

Probation & Parole Services in Ontario are mandated and funded by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and must comply with the Ministry of Correctional Services Act, the Provincial Offences Act, and relevant Federal and Provincial legislation such as the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the Child and Family Services Act.

Probation and Parole works primarily with offenders, providing the following services and supports:

- Supervision and case management services to adult offenders 18 years and older who have been sentenced by the Court to a period of community supervision, such as probation or a conditional sentence.
- Supervision of ex-inmates of provincial correctional facilities who are serving part of their sentence on parole in accordance with conditions and requirements identified by the Ontario Parole & Earned Release Board (OPERB).
- Preparation of pre-sentence reports to assist Judges in determining sentences.
- Preparation of pre-parole reports to assist the Ontario Parole & Earned Release Board with their decisions about parole releases.

The Belleville office serves offenders in the greater Quinte region, including Quinte West, Central and South Hastings.

It is especially important that victims of partner abuse to understand the following in relation to their involvement with Probation & Parole Services.

1. Probation & Parole Officers can NOT commit to protecting the confidentiality of any information the victim provides about the offender or the offense. Information shared for a court-ordered report, such as a Pre-sentencing Report, or a pre-parole report may be disclosed to the offender.
2. Probation & Parole Officers can NOT share any information about the offender's participation or progress in counselling programs, such as the Partner Assault Response Program (PAR Program) with the victim.

Overview of Specific Procedures and Services

1. CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION WITH VICTIMS

Probation and Parole Officers have three primary responsibilities in relation to victims:

- a) To provide information to the victim about the offender in accordance with policy and the law.
- b) To obtain information from the victim about the offender and the offense in accordance with policy.
- c) To provide appropriate referrals to the victims in response to identified needs.

More specifically, engagement with the victims of partner abuse is considered essential for the assessment, management and supervision of offender and for effective report writing. Regular contact between Probation & Parole Services and victims gives the PPO's the opportunity to:

- Corroborate offense information to assist with the assessment of risk;
- Corroborate information provided by the offender during case supervision;
- develop a link with the victim for enforcement purposes in the event of subsequent incidents of violence; -and-
- Facilitate the creation of a link between Corrections and the victim so that she can readily access information about the offender which will help her make more informed decisions relating to her personal safety.

Probation & Parole Officers **CAN** provide the following information about adult offenders to the victim:

- Whether or not the offender is in custody and if so the release date;
- Whether or not the offender is on probation/parole or conditional sentence;
- The offender's parole eligibility date;
- Standard conditions of probation/parole/conditional sentence order
- Additional condition(s) which specifically name the victim, such as a non-association condition;
- The general geographic area in which the offender will reside after release from custody.

Probation & Parole Officers **CAN NOT** share any information about the offender's participation or progress in counselling program, such as the Partner Assault Response Program, with the victim.

Probation & Parole Officers will **REQUEST** information from the victim when:

- Gathering information for risk assessment and risk management purposes;
- Preparing Pre-sentence Reports and Pre-parole Reports; -and-

- When monitoring the offender for any indication of subsequent abusive behaviour or non-compliance with conditions specific to partner abuse issues.

Offenders are advised that the Probation & Parole Services maintain contact with the victim, the offender's current partner, and any other potential victims throughout the period of supervision.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

When working with offenders on probation, parole or conditional sentence for partner abuse offenses and offenders on probation, parole or conditional sentence for offenses not related to partner abuse who present a risk for partner abuse, PPO's complete a comprehensive risk assessment with particular attention to the following:

- past criminal convictions for assault of family members, strangers, and/or acquaintances, and past violations of conditional release or community supervision orders;
- detailed history of partner abuse including recent escalation in frequency or severity of violence, use of weapons during past assault against partner, and attitudes that support or condone partner abuse;
- psycho-social adjustment difficulties in relationships, employment, substance abuse, and psychological/psychiatric disturbances including suicidal and/or homicidal tendencies;
- access to firearms, and
- motivation for treatment.

This information is incorporated into Court-Ordered Reports and Pre-parole Reports, and is updated as necessary during supervision.

3. COURT ORDERED REPORTS AND PRE-PAROLE REPORTS

When preparing pre-sentence or pre-parole reports, PPOs collect and present comprehensive information about the offender in order to recommend focused, supportable and enforceable conditions. PPO's work cooperatively with court officials to ensure that the wording of these conditions is appropriate.

When preparing Pre-Parole Reports, PPO's clearly indicate if the offender resides with or plans to resume living with the victim of a partner abuse offence or another recent partner abuse offence.

4. CASE SUPERVISION

Probation and Parole Officers maintain detailed records of all contacts with the offender during the period of supervision. In addition, officers monitor and document:

- any contact with victims of partner abuse, current partner or collateral contacts such as the offender's employer;

- referrals to the Partner Assault Response Program or other community-based counselling services; and
- contact with or referrals to Hastings County Children's Aid Society made during the period of supervision.

5. ENFORCEMENT

In keeping with their understanding of serious and often ongoing nature of partner abuse, PPO's are extremely vigilant with respect to any indication of subsequent violent or abusive behaviour and/or any other form of non-compliance with conditions relating to partner abuse issues, such as failure to attend the Partner Assault Response (PAR) Program as a mandated participant. (PAR personnel provide weekly updates to P&P regarding mandated participants' attendance and involvement with the PAR program.)

In the event that officers become aware of new allegations of abuse or violence by the offender, they immediately notify the police and OPERB if applicable.

Accessibility

The Probation and Parole offices, located on the 3rd floor of 15 Victoria Avenue, the Ontario Provincial Court Building, is completely wheelchair accessible to both manual and electric wheelchair users, including accessible main and alternate exits with automatic door opener, accessible washroom facilities, and designated wheelchair parking. In addition, Probation & Parole Services has designated funding to arrange ASL interpretation services if necessary for Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing clients.

Accountability

A representative from Probation and Parole Services will participate on the QCCAV. Complaints or concerns regarding the quality or nature of services received or not received through Probation and Parole Services can be addressed with the Probation and Parole Officer involved. In the event that the person remains dissatisfied with the resolution offered at this level, s/he may direct their concern to the area manager.

Contact information:

Area Manager - Jolyon Thompson
15 Victoria Ave, 3rd Floor
Belleville, ON
Telephone: 613-968-5737