

PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES

Belleville Probation Parole Service 15 Victoria Avenue, 3 rd 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 sexual assault 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 with the victim about the offender's participation or progress in any assessments or counselling programs.

Overview of Specific Procedures and Services

1. CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION WITH VICTIMS

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

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

More specifically, engagement with the victims of sexual assault may be considered essential for the assessment, management and supervision of the 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/he can readily access information about the offender which will help her/him make more informed decisions relating to her/his 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 **CANNOT** share any information with the victim about the offender's participation or progress in counselling programs.

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

- Gathering information for risk assessment and risk management purposes;
- When monitoring the offender for any indication of subsequent sexually

abusive behaviour or non-compliance with conditions specific to sexual assault.

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 sex offenders on probation, parole or conditional sentence for sexual assault offenses who present a risk for future sexual assaults, PPO's complete a comprehensive risk assessment with particular attention to the following:

- past criminal convictions for sexual assault of family members, strangers, and/or acquaintances, and past violations of conditional release or community supervision orders;
- detailed history of sexually abusive behaviour including number of victims, any recent increase in frequency or severity of violence, use of weapons during past assaults, and attitudes that support or condone sexual violence;
- 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 the conditions are appropriate.

When preparing Pre-Parole Reports, PPO's clearly indicate if the offender resides with or has access to other potential victims of sexual assault.

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 sexual abuse, current partner or collateral contacts such as the offender's employer;

- referrals to assessment and treatment program for sexual offenders 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 the serious and often ongoing nature of sexual 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 sexual violence, such as failure to attend treatment programs as a mandated participant. In the event that officers become aware of new allegations of sexual 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 participates 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, she/he may direct their concern to the area manager.

Contact information:

Acting Area Manager – Jolyon Thompson
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Belleville, ON
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