

## Probation Services Frequently Asked Questions

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**1. What are the rules for reporting to my Probation Officer?**

You must report on the day and time your Probation Officer tells you to.

If you have an emergency or illness that prevents you from keeping your appointment, you must call and speak directly to your Probation Officer or Supervisor and get a new appointment.

**2. What should I bring to my appointments with my Probation Officer?**

Photo ID (Driver License or State ID card)

Proof of where you live (utility bill, business mail, etc.).

Proof of employment (pay stub, note from employer).

Proof of changes, if any, to your name, address, phone, etc.

Proof of any completed program, community service, restitution, etc..

**3. What should I **NOT** bring to my appointment with my Probation Officer?**

Weapons or anything that can be used as a weapon.

**4. Why is it important for me to participate in treatment?**

These programs will help you improve your situation — they are not a punishment. However, if you do not cooperate with treatment your probation may be violated.

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If you do not want to go to treatment, these are normal feeling, because of the time and effort you must put in to complete the treatment. Remember this, the most important first step is for you to attend. Once you are there and you think of treatment as an opportunity, you will get the most out of it. Give yourself the best chance for success, by going to treatment and participating in helping yourself.

#### **5. Why do I have to sign a release of information?**

It is necessary for you to sign the release of information so that your Probation Officer can find out if you attended and completed the treatment program.

#### **6. How can I get information about services in the community?**

Your Probation Officer can give you the referrals you will need.

#### **7. Am I responsible for paying for my treatment services?**

You may have to pay for your treatment. However, you may be eligible for services through private or state funding, free services or services that are offered at a reduced cost. This must be discussed with your treatment provider.

#### **8. If I get arrested what do I do?**

If you are arrested, charged with any offense, or have any police contact, contact your Probation Officer, within 48 hours of your contact with the law. You may contact your probation officer in person or by telephone.

#### **9. Can I go out of state?**

You may not travel or move out of state without permission from your Probation Officer.

#### **10. Can I carry a firearm?**

No probationer may own, borrow, or carry any firearms without the permission of the court. It must be printed on your court order.

#### **11. What is a Violation of Probation?**

When you fail to follow the conditions of your probation it is a violation of probation.

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If you fail to follow any of your conditions or you get arrested, your Probation Officer may return your case to court.

When your case is returned to court for a violation of probation a court hearing will be scheduled. If a violation is proven, you may be sentenced to jail.

#### **12. What if I have a “No Contact” order?**

You must not have or attempt to have any contact with the person or place named in the NO contact order. If that person tries to contact you, do not agree to make contact. Contact your Probation Officer immediately.

#### **13. I was just released from jail or prison, what is the first thing I should do?**

Your probation begins the day you are released from jail or prison. You must immediately contact the Orange County Probation Unit at 407-836-3000.

#### **14. Who do I pay my court fines and fees to?**

You will make your court payments directly to the Clerk’s Office at the courthouse.

#### **15. What are my rights as a probationer?**

You have the right to be treated in a respectful and professional manner that is free of any form of harassment, bias or discrimination because of your race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth, disability and political views.

#### **16. What do I do if I feel my rights have been violated?**

First, talk to your Officer and try to resolve your problems with your Officer.

If you feel that you can’t resolve your problems with your Probation Officer, ask to speak to your officer’s supervisor.

If you still cannot resolve the problem you may request to file a grievance.

Your probation will not be negatively affected just because you filed a complaint.

Filing a complaint does not relieve you from your responsibilities to the court. You must continue to report to probation and comply as instructed.