

UNDERSTANDING PROBATION

What is probation?

- Alternative to a jail sentence
- You have to do certain things for the privilege of staying out of jail.

Why do it?

- Avoid jail
- Keep your job
- Spend time with friends and family

What's the catch?

- Requirements
- It costs money
- If you mess up, you could go to jail for your entire sentence!



STAY IN TOUCH with your probation officer! Your PO may be able to help you solve a problem that is keeping you from doing what you need to.



If you **VIOLATE any terms of your probation, YOUR PROBATION MAY BE REVOKED. This means you serve your sentence in jail!**

Your PO will tell you **YOUR** specific requirements.

If you have questions, ask!
Communication is important!

Typical Requirements

Check in regularly with your Probation Officer

- may be by phone or email
- usually once or twice a month

Drug or alcohol testing

- can be required even if your plea was not for a drug crime
- this costs money!

Other requirements depend on circumstances. For example:

- drug treatment
- mental health treatment
- anger management classes
- parenting classes
- restitution to a victim
- stay away from a certain place or person

No new arrests

- If you are arrested while on probation, it can trigger a violation of probation

Successful Probation Is

Following all probation rules

Passing drug tests

Completing any required classes or treatment

Lawful behavior (no new arrests)



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