



DeKalb County Adult Court Services Program

DeKalb County Adult Court Services operates within the parameters set forth by the Probation and Probation Officers Act found in the Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 38, Paragraph 204. Adult Court Service operations are also subject to statutory authority of the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, local court rules and practices as set forth by the 16th Circuit Chief Judge, DeKalb County Presiding Judge, and applicable policies and operational procedures of the County of DeKalb.

Some standard court ordered conditions include: obey all laws; report to probation as directed; complete a specified number of Community Restitution Service hours; obtain a counseling assessment and follow all recommendations; complete a drug or alcohol evaluation and follow all treatment recommendations; serve a period of electronic home monitoring; serve time in DeKalb County Jail; submit to a DNA index; pay fines, costs, fees, and restitution as determined by the Court.

Traditionally, the main function of the Probation Officer was to monitor the behavior of the offender and report areas of non-compliance to the Court. Monitoring activities include office appointments, home visits, jail visits, record checks, verification of employment and residence, random urinalysis and collateral contacts with counseling agencies. In the last couple of years, probation departments across the State have shifted from focusing primarily on monitoring and surveillance activities, to incorporating cognitive-behavioral intervention strategies designed to reduce risk factors associated with re-offending.

The DeKalb County Adult Probation Officers have incorporated evidence-based principles into their daily job functions and are working with offenders to facilitate pro-social behavioral change. Evidence-based practices emphasize outcomes and include case management strategies proven by research to reduce recidivism. The principles of evidence-based practices are the foundations for effective case management and include: 1) assess risk factors – target resources for the higher risk offenders; 2) identify criminogenic needs – target behaviors, attitudes, and belief systems for appropriate intervention; 3) identify the offender's responsiveness to different types of treatment – match them to programs and services that consider their individual needs, learning styles, and readiness for change and; 4) engage on-going support in the community –

actively recruit and use family members, spouses, and other supportive individuals in the offender's surroundings to reinforce pro-social behavior, thereby enhancing public safety.

A key component in the successful development and implementation of evidence-based practices in Court Services is collaboration with other stakeholders in the criminal justice system. Court Services personnel continue to work closely with the Judiciary, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and community-based agencies in order to develop a framework of agreed upon principles to achieve reductions in recidivism.