



Community Supervision and COVID-19 March 31, 2020

Due to the current public health crisis, community supervision agencies must make changes in practice for individuals under problem-solving court, court alcohol and drug program, pretrial, community corrections, and probation supervision. The goal is to continue to provide community supervision services to the extent feasible, while protecting the health and safety of staff, persons under supervision, and the community.

Courts and community supervision agencies are encouraged to identify new and creative ways to supervise individuals while practicing social distancing. Any supervision adjustments at the agency or case level must be made in consultation with your supervising judge and necessary team members considering the risk and needs of the individuals under supervision, state and local health department recommendations, and public safety.

Please note that the current health crisis **does not** permit circumventing any Interstate Compact applicable to individuals under supervision in Indiana or individuals returning to a home state. Community supervision agencies must continue to follow Interstate Compact rules.

When making adjustment to current supervision practices, agencies should consider the following:

- Notice to clients:
 - How will clients be notified of supervision expectations and any changes authorized by the court regarding supervision appointments, attendance at treatment and other services, community service, and chemical testing?
 - How should clients contact supervising officers with questions, concerns, schedule changes, etc.?
 - What is the intake process for persons returning to supervision from the Department of Correction?
- Addressing supervision appointments:
 - What technologic resources are available to you and your clients to stay in contact (telephone, video conference, etc.)?
 - How often will clients be in contact with supervision officers (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, etc.)?
 - Will there still be home visits consistent with social distancing guidelines?
- Report writing and assessments:
 - How will department interview clients for required presentence, preliminary inquiry, or pre-dispositional reports?
 - How will risk assessments and other assessments/screenings be conducted?

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- When face to face interviews are not possible due to social distancing requirements, the next best method for conducting assessment interviews is by video conference, followed by telephone interviews. IOCS recommends that persons administering the assessment document the method by which the assessment conducted.
- Treatment services:
 - Supervision agencies should consult with behavioral health treatment providers to determine:
 - what services are available
 - how services may be accessed, including whether any services are being conducted remotely
 - how to keep the lines of communication open regarding client progress or addressing crisis situations
- Other supervision conditions:
 - Are ignition interlock providers accessible? Are changes to client contact, available services, or reports necessary? What action should probationers take if they are unable to report for device calibration appointments?
 - Will community service requirements be postponed? When will they resume?
 - Will educational classes (i.e. GED, Substance use education, MRT, T4C, etc.) still be available and by what method? Are on-line options available?
 - Will chemical testing continue? If so, what adjustments will be made in frequency and in testing method, if any?
- Supervision violations:
 - How will violations be addressed?
 - Under what circumstances will the court issue a summons on a notice of violation? Under what circumstances will the court issue a warrant?
 - How will failures to appear at court hearings be addressed?
 - Supervision agencies should consult with local law enforcement regarding current department policies on issuing summons for new offenses and serving warrants.
- Other agency duties
 - Who will review mail received for the office?
 - Who will process payments and make deposits consistent with SBOA guidance?
 - Who will answer phones and return messages?
 - For staff working in the office, follow CDC guidelines
 - Other matters related to employees (i.e. hours, work location, etc.) should be addressed through normal dialogue with personnel and fiscal bodies at the local level.
- Additional Resources: Here are links to national level resources that may also be helpful:
 - APPA: <https://www.appa-net.org/eweb/>
 - NADCP: <https://www.nadcp.org/>
 - DOC/CC: <https://www.in.gov/idoc/2320.htm>
 - SAMHSA: <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

As public health conditions change, courts and community supervision agencies should reassess the need for additional changes or restrictions.