



# District Court Probation

JAKE WIEBUSCH, ADMINISTRATOR  
DISTRICT COURT AND PROBATION

# District Court Probation-

What we do and who we are.

- We receive **all** court referred adult clients both pre-trial and post-conviction for misdemeanor charges out of **District Court, Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Lynden and Sumas Municipal Courts.**
  - We also receive **felony “drop-downs”** from superior court, so probation services can be provided.
- Everyone is held accountable to either their conditions of release (PT) or conditions of probation (PC).
- All services and resources are available to all referred clients.

**WHATCOM COUNTY WASHINGTON**

## What to Expect While on Probation

### Office Appointments

Your first meeting is an in-person intake appointment, where a Probation Officer will be assigned to you. Your Probation Officer will schedule all future appointments, which may be in-person or call-in. Attendance is mandatory. For safety, all in-person appointments are held with office doors remaining open.

### Professional Conduct

You should expect your Probation Officer to conduct themselves with the highest level of professionalism. All interactions will be respectful, courteous, and free from any form of harassment or discrimination.

If you experience concerns related to communication, safety, or professionalism, you should first discuss the issue directly with your assigned Probation Officer. If you are not comfortable doing so, you have the right to request to speak with a supervisor.

### Communication & Devices

Probation Officers will only contact you during business hours, and use only court-owned devices to communicate with you. They cannot receive text or voicemail messages and will never use personal devices for probation matters. Expect all communications and interactions to adhere to high standards of professionalism.

### Accountability

Your Probation Officer will hold you accountable to the terms and conditions ordered by the court. Regular appointments and monitoring will be conducted to ensure you remain compliant throughout your probation period.

### Guidance & Support

Your Probation Officer is here to provide guidance and support to help you successfully complete your probation. They will offer resources and referrals for services that may assist in your compliance. Open communication is essential for addressing issues that may arise.

### Successful Outcomes

Your Probation Officer is here to support you through this process and to help you navigate your probation to ensure a successful outcome. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to ask your Probation Officer.

# District Court Probation

- ▶ Services offered consist of referrals to **treatment** services, **substance testing**, in-house **programing** (MRT), **electronic monitoring devices**, **text reminders**, general guidance and referrals for basic needs.
- ▶ Majority of referrals are **alcohol/drug driving** offences (DUI and/or related), including deferred prosecutions, as well as domestic violence (**DV**) charges.
- ▶ DCP is seeing a annual referral increase coming out of COVID (at least 5% per year). In **2024**, caseloads increased close to **10%** and in **2025** they grew an additional **7%**.
- ▶ Along with caseloads increasing, so are the complexities of each case. We are generally not receiving the first time offender. We are consistently receiving individuals with more complex dynamic issues such as dual-diagnosis and/or with higher risk factors, including DV cases.

# District Court Probation- Staff and Caseloads

- ▶ Probation has an **Administrator** (split between DC and DCP), **Probation Manger**, **Lead Probation Officer**, **11** total PO's, **3** Clerical staff and **2** Extra Help Employees all coming from varies backgrounds and experience.

## Specialized Caseloads

- ▶ General DUI caseload (5.5 PO's)
- ▶ Pre-Trial unit (1.5 PO's)
- ▶ High Risk DV unit (1 PO)
- ▶ Behavioral Health Caseloads (2 PO's)
- ▶ Mental Health Court Caseload (1PO)
  - ▶ We are receiving \$192,000 this year from AOC to support the MHC program.

# District Court Probation- Programing

## Programing - *No additional expense to clients*

- ▶ **DVPOTS**- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Opportunity for Treatment Services
  - ▶ 108 individuals offered funding since 2020
- ▶ **DVMRT**- Domestic Violence Moral Recognition Therapy
  - ▶ Over 150 individuals have been given the opportunity to participate. Currently we run 3 groups a week with 8-10 participants in each group.
  - ▶ Now receiving \$3,250 from AOC to cover some expenses
- ▶ Family Justice Calendar (**FJC**)
  - ▶ Judge Anderson established in 2022 to provide an added layer of accountability.
- ▶ **MRT**- Moral Recognition Therapy (standard)
- ▶ **Anger MRT**- Anger Management Moral Recognition Therapy
- ▶ **Electronic Equipment Program**- alcohol monitoring devices consisting of TAD and Soberlink for both pre and post conviction.
- ▶ Text message reminder system