



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Misdemeanor Probation?

A: Probation is a privilege, not a right. When an adult offender is convicted of a misdemeanor crime, the Court has the option to suspend or defer the parish jail sentence and place the offender on supervised probation. When supervised probation is ordered, the 21st Judicial District Court Misdemeanor Probation Office monitors the defendant and supervises his/her compliance with the Court's ordered conditions.

Q: What is the difference between Probation and Parole?

A: Probation is a sentencing alternative that allows offenders to be supervised in the community, with the imposition of their sentence suspended or deferred. Parole follows the release from a state prison sentence. When offenders serve a Louisiana prison sentence, they are released onto parole and supervised by a [Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections](#).

Q: How do I find out who my misdemeanor probation officer is?

A: Officer Allison Cutrer handles Tangipahoa Parish cases and Division "B" – "D" – "F" cases in St. Helena Parish. Officer Michell Sellers handles Livingston Parish cases and Division "A" – "C" – "E" cases in St. Helena Parish.

Q: Do I need an appointment to see a probation officer?

A: Yes, it is recommended that you schedule an appointment to meet with a probation officer. There will be times the probation officers will be handling court matters and unavailable to be at the office.

Q: Where do I pay my fees (supervision fee, fine, court cost, and/or restitution) due to the Court?

A: Your fees are paid at the 21st JDC Collections Department in the parish (*Livingston, St. Helena, or Tangipahoa*) where you were sentenced for your offense.

Q: What form of payments will be accepted?

A: Payments can be made in the form of cash (*only at Livingston & Tangipahoa locations*), money order/cashier's check, or [credit/debit card](#) (*PERSONAL CHECKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED*).

Q: Who do I make my money orders payable to?

A: Money orders should be made payable to the 21st JDC Collections Department.

Q: Can payments be made online or by phone?

A: Yes, you can pay online with your debit/credit card at www.21stjdcpcpay.org or by phone at 1-877-717-4647.

Q: Where can I perform my community service work?

A: If you are on probation for Driving While Intoxicated, you are required by law to complete half of your community service work in a court-approved litter abatement program. The other half can be performed at a **court-approved** (*you can contact your probation officer to find out if the organization is court -approved*) non-profit organization.

If you are on probation for a charge other than Driving While Intoxicated all your community service work can be performed at a **court-approved** (*you can contact your probation officer to find out if the organization is court -approved*) non-profit organization.

Q: Can I go out of town/state?

A: Yes, you can travel out of town/state on misdemeanor probation.

Q: Can I transfer my probation?

A: No, we do not transfer misdemeanor probation cases.

Q: Will I have to appear in court?

A: You should have been served with a “monitoring date” when you were in court. This date is usually 1-3 months from the date of your conviction. This monitoring date is a status check to see if you are complying with your conditions of probation. If you are not sure if you have a monitoring date, contact your probation officer. If you fail to appear for this monitoring date or any other court appearances a warrant will be issued for your arrest.

Q: What do I do if I am unable to appear in court?

A: If you are unable to appear in court for your scheduled monitoring date you need to contact your probation officer as soon as possible to inform her of why you are unable to appear.

Q: What should I do if I missed a monitoring appearance, and a warrant has been issued for my arrest?

A: Make sure you keep track of your monitoring dates and always report as scheduled even if you are behind on your probation requirements. Failing to report as scheduled is a serious violation of your probation, which can result in a warrant for your arrest, and revocation of your probation. If you miss any monitoring date, you must contact your probation officer immediately. Be prepared to verify any unforeseen emergency that prevents you from reporting. You may be assessed a fee for failing to appear for your monitoring appearance.

Q: What happens if I violate my terms and conditions of probation?

A: If you violate the terms and conditions of probation, it could be handled in numerous ways, determined by your probation officer and the judge. Violations may result in your return to custody and/or court. You may also be directed to participate in treatment, community service, or other activities as directed by your probation officer and the judge.

Q: What if I am unable to get everything completed in time?

A: It is your responsibility to complete every obligation that has been set by the sentencing Court. If you are having problems with that, discuss it with your Probation Officer. If you cannot meet the Court’s requirements, we are obligated to report that to the Court. This usually means a violation of probation. Even if you have a violation filed, you must continue to come to your court/monitoring dates and work on all your outstanding conditions

Q: What if I have contact with law enforcement?

A: If you have any contact with the police or any other law enforcement officer, contact our office immediately. You must report any interaction and/or any new criminal charges no matter how small.

Q: How do I report someone on probation?

A: If you believe that you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1. If you believe the probationer has violated a condition of probation, contact the probation officer assigned to the case.

Q: How do I get the Article 894 paperwork?

A: If you are eligible, you can visit [Louisiana Clerks of Court Association](#) and fill out the appropriate 894 forms and file them with the Clerk of Courts Office.

Q: How do I get my driver’s license?

A: All questions relating to driver’s licenses should be addressed with the [Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles](#).

Q: I had to get an ignition interlock device installed in my vehicle to be able to drive. When I went to the Office of Motor Vehicles to get the ignition inter-lock removed, they stated that I need a letter from my probation officer before I can get it removed. However, installing an ignition interlock device in my vehicle was not a condition of my probation. What can I do?

A: If the Court did not order as a condition of your probation that you have to install an ignition interlock device, then our office will not be able to provide you with any letter for the Office of Motor Vehicles. You would have to address the matter with the Office of Motor Vehicles since they are the ones that ordered that you install the inter-lock device.