

# APPA's Vision

*We see a fair, just and safe  
society where community  
partnerships are restoring  
hope by embracing a balance  
of prevention, intervention  
and advocacy.*



## American Probation and Parole Association



### PROBATION 101

#### Inside:

- *Probation: What is it?*
- *What is a Probation Officer?*
- *What does he or she do?*
- *Who is on probation?*

**Community Justice  
and Safety for All**

For additional information about becoming a  
probation officer, visit  
<http://discovercorrections.com>



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A Force for Positive  
CHANGE.

## **Probation: What is it?**

Probation is a court ordered sanction that allows a person to remain in the community under the supervision of a probation officer. The conditions of this community-based supervision can vary. It could include jail time, fines, restitution, community service or other sanctions. Probation can also require a predetermined number of visits to their probation officer. If the person does not follow the rules of their probation, they could go back before the judge and be sent to jail or prison.



The mission of probation is to ensure public safety. Every citizen has the right to be free

from fear of harm to their person and property.

Probation began in the United States in 1841, when a shoemaker named John Augustus, known as the “Father of Probation,” asked a Boston judge to release a man charged with public drunkenness into his custody. It would be hard for Augustus to recognize probation today, based on its simple homespun beginning.

## **What is a Probation Officer, and what does he or she do?**



A probation officer or agent is someone who supervises a person who has been placed on probation. Some of the officers’ job duties include the following:

- Monitoring compliance with court orders
- Assisting offenders in obtaining needed services, such as housing and employment
- Overseeing the rehabilitation of offenders
- Conducting offender work and home visits
- Administering drug tests
- Providing services, support and protection for victims of crime

Probation officers must become competent in addressing the following issues:

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Sexual deviancy
- Child abuse
- Domestic violence
- Mental illness



Probation officers work hand in hand with community groups and social service agencies to provide offenders and victims with the support and services they need. Probation officers maintain partnerships with law enforcement and other justice agencies to share information and expertise.



## **Who is on Probation?**

Offenders are eligible for probation who are deemed appropriate for community supervision and have completed a portion of their sentence.



At the end of 2015, there were over 870,500 adult men and women

on parole in the United States. According to OJJDP, at the end of 2014, there were over 101,642 juveniles placed in residential facilities and 514,000 juveniles were on probation supervision in 2009.