

## **What kind of relationship can I expect to have with my probation officer?**

Your probation officer not only serves the court, but also is available to you as a resource. If you need a referral source, for instance, help finding a treatment provider, a court ordered class, or a place to do community service, do not hesitate to contact probation. The probation officer is here to help you succeed. Remember, however, that your probation officer is not your attorney and should not be a substitute for consulting with your lawyer regarding your case. Your relationship with the probation officer is not confidential.

## **Where do I go for more information?**

You can contact the court by phone or appear in person. Our address and phone number are on the front of the brochure. If you know your case number(s), please have it/them available, as this will help us assist you. You can also check out the City of Tukwila website at <http://www.ci.tukwila.wa.us>.

An Introduction to

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# **PROBATION TUKWILA MUNICIPAL COURT**

6200 Southcenter Blvd  
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Being placed on probation can be a confusing experience. We hope this pamphlet will be of help by taking some of the mystery out of the process. We have tried to anticipate and answer the more frequently asked questions. If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to ask your probation officer, your attorney, or refer to our website.

Mindy Breiner  
Probation Officer

Latricia Kinlow  
Court Administrator

## What does it mean to be on probation?

If you are convicted of a crime in Tukwila Municipal Court, you are placed on some level of supervision to ensure your compliance with the conditions of your sentence. This may mean a clerk checks your criminal history every 3 months or it may mean you will have to meet with a probation officer on a regular basis. "Probation" simply means that someone from the court is monitoring your compliance.

## What are the different levels of supervision?

Supervision levels are typically based on the nature of the offense, treatment requirements, defendant's criminal history, and other relevant factors.

### Supervised:

- Initial face to face appointment with probation officer;
- Monthly contact with probation to monitor compliance – type of contact (in person or otherwise) is determined by probation;
- Monthly administrative compliance checks by probation.

### Monitored:

- Initial face to face appointment with probation officer;
- Future appointments possible, as deemed appropriate by probation;
- Monthly administrative compliance checks by probation.

### Unsupervised:

Periodic administrative compliance checks by court staff.

All defendants on a Deferred Prosecution, those convicted of DUI that require alcohol treatment, and those convicted of Domestic Violence, will be placed on supervised probation.

All defendants convicted of a crime, regardless of its nature, are subject to regular administrative record reviews to determine if all sentence conditions are being met.

## How long will I be on probation?

The length of your probation period depends primarily on the nature of the offense. In making this determination, the judge will also use the same factors as those used in determining an appropriate level of supervision. Your probation period will typically be one or two years. If you are convicted of a DUI, this period may be as long as 5 years.

## What will happen if I violate probation rules?

While on probation, you are expected to make your appointments and abide by the orders of the court – the conditions of your sentence. If you are not required to meet with probation, you are expected to abide by the conditions of your sentence. If you fail to appear for an appointment with the probation officer or violate

a rule or condition of sentence, a warrant may be issued for your arrest or you may receive summons to appear in court to answer to the allegation.

***Important: keep your address up to date with the court or your probation officer at all times!!!***

## Are there probation fees?

Yes. While these fees are subject to change, currently, defendants are ordered to pay \$100 per year of probation. If a defendant is on a Deferred Prosecution, the cost is \$1200. These fees are typically due in full within 60 days of sentencing. If more than 60 days is needed, contact the court clerk's office for information regarding a payment plan.

## WHAT is a "PSI" and what can I expect?

If the judge has ordered you to meet with the probation officer for a "PSI" (pre-sentence interview), it means the judge wants to know more about you, your offense, and have the probation officer make a sentence recommendation. The interview takes approximately one hour. The probation officer will ask you a variety of questions regarding such things as your personal, professional, educational, and health background. This information may help the judge tailor a sentence to meet your needs and serve justice.

## Can I leave the state while I'm on probation?

Yes. An explicit condition to remain in the state is extremely rare. If you leave or move you are still expected to abide by the conditions of your sentence – including treatment requirements – and remain in contact. Again, it is very important to keep the court and probation apprised of your current mailing address.