

X. U. S. PROBATION OFFICE

Duties and Functions

The two major functions of the Probation Office are to conduct investigations and supervise persons for several authorities. These authorities include:

U.S. COURTS

Rule 32(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure require the Probation Office to conduct presentence investigations before the imposition of sentence, when ordered by the Court. Regarding defendants who are placed on probation or supervised release, Title 18 U.S.C. 3603 provides that the probation officer shall keep informed to the degree required by the conditions specified by the Sentencing Court, as to the conduct and condition of a probationer or a person on supervised release who is under supervision, and report the conduct and condition to the sentencing Court. The probation officer shall use all suitable methods, consistent with the conditions specified by the Court, to aid the person under supervision, and to bring about improvements in conduct and condition.

The presentence report is a critical document utilized by the Court in imposing sentence. The Court relies on the information in the report when considering an appropriate sentence, including imposition of special conditions concerning the treatment of the offender as well as protection of the community. If the defendant is placed on probation, the report will influence the probation officer's supervision plan. If committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, the report influences the type and security level of institution to which the offender may be designated to serve his sentence. For offenses committed prior to November 1, 1987, the presentence report is the primary document utilized by the U.S. Parole Commission in establishing a parole release, as well as imposition of special conditions of parole.

U. S. BUREAUS OF PRISONS

At the request of the Bureau of Prisons, probation officers conduct investigations relative to persons in prison, such as verification of an inmate's proposed furlough from the institution.

U. S. PAROLE COMMISSION

Title 18 U.S.C. 4203 authorizes the U.S. Parole Commission to request probation officers to perform such duties with respect to any parolee as the Parole Commission deems necessary. Some of these duties include:

- (1) verifications and approval of parole plans submitted by inmates applying for release on parole;

- (2) supervision of persons released on parole or mandatory release prior to expiration/completion of the imposed sentence;
- (3) conduct preliminary interviews on alleged parole violators, thereby functioning as a preliminary fact-finder on behalf of the U.S. Parole Commission in determining the disposition of a parole violation.

OTHER AUTHORITIES

The Probation Office also assists the U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy in their parole programs by performing investigations and supervision services.