

What happens if you get sent back to court?

If you are taken back to court for breaking the rules of your sentence, the court must take action. Depending on your situation, the court might decide to:

- make you do more Requirements;
- make you do different Requirements;
- make the Requirement or Requirements you are already doing harder; or
- send you to prison.

The court **cannot** just give you a warning or a fine.

If you do not want to risk going to prison it is very important that you follow the rules of your Community Order and the Requirements that you are given to do.

Local information:

About your Requirements

The court has ordered you to do the Requirements that are ticked below. You should be given a leaflet to explain each Requirement you have to do:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Activity | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mental Health Treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Alcohol Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Programme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Attendance Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prohibited Activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Curfew | <input type="checkbox"/> | Residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Drug Rehabilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Supervision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unpaid Work |

The National Probation Service is committed to working fairly and professionally with all offenders regardless of factors such as their race, religion, culture, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

Further information

For more information about anything in this leaflet, please talk to your responsible officer.

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NOMS National Offender Management Service
Working together to reduce re-offending

Community Order



New sentences for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005



Community Order

Information for people serving a Community Order

About your Order

The court has sentenced you to do a Community Order. This might be:

- to punish you;
- to reduce crime;
- to change the way you behave and help you stay away from crime;
- to protect the public; or
- to make you pay back something to the community or to the victims of your crime.

Your Community Order is made up of one or more 'Requirements'. The Court has chosen a Requirement or Requirements based on the seriousness of your crime and your personal circumstances. You will be given a separate leaflet about each of the Requirements in your Community Order.

About your responsible officer

You will have one person who you must keep in contact with while you are on your Community Order.

This person is called your 'responsible officer'. They may be an officer of the probation service, or the officer in charge of an Attendance Centre, or an electronic monitoring officer (if the court has said you must be tagged). You might be told to keep in contact with other people too.

The court expects your responsible officer to make sure that you stick to the rules of your Requirements and complete your sentence successfully. If you do not do this, the court expects your responsible officer to do something about it.

What you must do

While you are on your Community Order you **must**:

- listen carefully to what your responsible officer says and do what they ask you to do;
- do what you are told to do for each of the Requirements you are given (different leaflets will tell you what this means);
- turn up for appointments to do with your sentence and be on time;
- make sure you turn up in a fit state to take part;
- show respect to probation staff and other people you meet during your sentence;
- tell your responsible officer straight away if you plan to change your address or phone number;
- tell your responsible officer straight away if you are unable to keep an appointment;
- tell them if you are having any other problems with completing your sentence;
- carry out any other instructions you may be given as part of your sentence; and
- stay out of trouble.

What if you break the rules?

If you miss an appointment or break the rules of any of the Requirements you are given, your responsible officer will ask you to explain why. If there is a good reason for not being able to keep an appointment you should provide your responsible officer with evidence. This might be a doctor's note or a letter from your employer, for example.

If your reason is not acceptable, the responsible officer must take action.

- The first time anyone on a Community Order breaks the rules of any Requirement, they might receive a final warning – or, if their behaviour is particularly serious, they might be sent back to court.
- If anyone breaks the rules for a second time within 12 months without a good reason, they must be taken back to court.

It is very important that you attend your appointments and work hard to complete your sentence.