



**Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency**  
**For the District of Columbia**  
Office of Community Supervision and Intervention Services

# **POLICY STATEMENT**

Community Supervision Philosophy  
Number: 3100  
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Director

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## Overview

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**Background** The mission of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA or Agency) is to supervise adults under our jurisdiction to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, support the fair administration of justice, and promote accountability, inclusion, and success through the implementation of evidence-based practices in close collaboration with our criminal justice partners in the community.

Community supervision includes supervisees serving terms of probation, parole, and supervised release, as well as those with deferred sentence agreements (DSAs) and civil protective orders (CPOs) in the District of Columbia.

The Agency's core functions include:

- Supervision of supervisees based on the risk they pose to public safety;
- Provision of intervention services to reduce criminogenic risks and needs; and
- Application of conditions, including restrictions placed by the releasing authorities.

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**Coverage** This Policy Statement applies to staff of CSOSA authorized to provide community supervision and intervention services to individuals serving a period of community supervision.

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- Authorities**
- Section 11232 (b)(1), § 11232(b)(2), § 11233(b)(2)(B) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 ("Revitalization Act"), Pub. Law 105-33, 111 Stat. 712, D.C. Code § 24-1232(b)(1), § 24-1232(b)(2), § 24-1233(b)(2)(B) (1996 Repl., 1999 Supp.)
  - D.C. Code § 24-103 (1996 Repl.); D.C. Code § 24- 201.2(a)(3) and D.C.M.R. §§ 213.4-213.6 (1987)
  - D.C. Official Code § 24-133(c) (2001 Edition)
  - 28 C.F.R. §§ 2.85 and 810

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**Administrator** The Office of Community Supervision and Intervention Services (OCSIS) is responsible for the contents of this policy.

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## Policy

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### Principles

- Supervision is based on the principles of risk, need, and responsibility to reinforce public safety.
  - Supervision involves ensuring supervisee compliance with supervision requirements and special conditions imposed by the releasing authorities.
  - Actuarial assessment tools are used to aid in the determination of the individual's risk.
  - Supervision is individualized to each supervisee employing strategies that adhere to evidence-based practices (EBPs).
  - Supervision levels, releasing conditions, identified needs, recommendations, and supervisee behaviors determine the frequency, intensity, and duration of:
    - 1) Supervision;
    - 2) Interventions; and
    - 3) Restrictions.
  - Risk containment is achieved by selecting and imposing specific types and intensity of supervision requirements, restrictions, and interventions.
  - Supervision involves only such deprivation of liberty or property as is reasonably necessary to achieve the supervision objectives and public safety.
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## Definitions

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### **Criminogenic Needs**

Criminogenic risk factors that are dynamic, e.g., antisocial cognitions, substance use, etc. When addressed, they can affect a person's likelihood to engage in future criminal activity. Because criminogenic needs are treatable, they can guide an intervention strategy.

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### **Criminogenic Risk**

Characteristics of individuals associated with a greater likelihood to re-offend in the future. They include static factors such as past criminal history and dynamic factors.

Criminogenic risks are categorized as follows:

#### The Top Four (Highly Predictive)

- History of Antisocial Behavior
- Antisocial Personality Pattern
- Antisocial Cognition
- Antisocial Associates

#### The Lower Four (Very Predictive)

- Poor family and/or marital relationships
  - Low educational achievement/Unemployment or under-employment
  - Poor use of leisure/recreational time
  - Substance use
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### **Evidence-Based Practices (EBP)**

The conscientious use of the best research, currently available to inform decisions about the supervision of individuals, as well as the design and delivery of policies and practices to enhance public safety, and achieve maximum, measurable reductions in recidivism.

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## Definitions, Continued

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**Interventions** Services designed to aid the supervisee and foster:

- Compliance with supervision conditions;
- Lawful self-management; and
- Improvements in conduct and circumstances.

Examples of behavioral interventions include but are not limited to:

- Cognitive-behavioral intervention;
  - Vocational training;
  - Substance use disorder treatment; and
  - Linkages to community resources.
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**Need Principle** The principle of assessing criminogenic needs and targeting them through interventions.

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**Responsivity Principle** The principle of maximizing the supervisee's ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention, e.g., cognitive behavior groups, by tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities, and strengths of the supervisee.

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**Restrictions** Restrictions placed on an supervisee by the releasing authorities.

Examples of restrictions applied in supervision include but are not limited to:

- Electronic monitoring, e.g., Global Positioning System (GPS);
- Travel restrictions;
- Restrictions on associations with specified persons;
- Restrictions on alcohol use;
- Restriction on computer/internet use; and
- Intermittent confinement.

Restrictions such as location tracking and travel restrictions can also be imposed by a Community Supervision Officer (CSO) in response to noncompliance and to reduce the risk of re-offending by limiting the opportunity to engage in high-risk behavior.

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## Definitions, Continued

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**Risk Principle**      The principle of matching the level of services to the supervisee’s risk to re-offend.

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**Supervision**        Staying informed about a supervisee’s conduct and condition by collecting and maintaining information, responding to progress with supervision objectives and infractions, and reporting to the releasing authorities.

Examples of supervision activities include but are not limited to:

- Visits to the supervisee’s home, places of employment, or elsewhere in the community;
  - Meetings in supervision offices;
  - Criminal history record checks;
  - On-going assessment and case planning;
  - Urinalysis; and
  - Employment verification, etc.
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## Roles and Responsibilities

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### **Office of Community Supervision and Intervention Services (OCSIS)**

OCSIS executes CSOSA's core mission-critical activities grounded in the core correctional practices in community corrections. All OCSIS activities are carried out in support of desisting criminal behaviors and sustained behavioral change in supervisees, resulting in increased public safety and decreased recidivism. Supervision activities include assessment, intervention planning, deployment, monitoring, and surveillance.

OCSIS is responsible for:

- Conducting a pre-sentence assessment and report on supervisees, on request from the courts.
  - Completing Transitional Intervention for Parole Supervision (TIPS) reports to the Bureau of Prisons prior to the supervisees' release.
  - Conducting supervision intake as a case assignment. Intake includes creating new case files for first-time supervisees and verifying and updating existing profile information and other data in the case file for those with previous supervision history.
  - Administering assessments throughout the supervisee's supervision period to inform case planning supervision decisions and referrals to intervention services.
  - Administering the specialized assessments and screenings to assess chronicity, severity, and acuity of supervisees' needs and use the result(s) to inform case planning and interventions.
  - Providing supervision and case management services in accordance with the supervisee's risk level, with the highest level of resources used to intervene on supervisees who pose the highest risk to public safety.
  - Providing integrated heightened surveillance, monitoring, and behavioral interventions to those who pose the highest risk to public safety.
  - Imposing sanctions and issuing incentives based on compliance status with court-ordered conditions and non-discretionary intervention services to support public safety objectives. Sanctions may include the deployment of enhanced containment, accountability, and stability measures.
  - Providing on-going case management focusing on moving supervisees towards developing lawful self-management skills and developing motivation for change through the application of the Core Correctional Practices.
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