

SUPERVISION 101

The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency

Who We Are

CSOSA's mission is to effectively 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 and the community.

What We Do

Community supervision is an alternative to incarceration in which justice-involved individuals serve all or part of their sentence in the community, rather than behind bars. Types of community supervision in the District of Columbia are probation, parole, and supervised release. CSOSA also supervises some people who are subject to Civil Protection Orders and Deferred Sentencing Agreements.

The releasing authority – the Superior Court for the District of Columbia for individuals on probation, or the United States Parole Commission for individuals on parole or supervised release – imposes conditions of release. For each person under supervision, CSOSA develops an individualized supervision plan based on a comprehensive risk and needs assessment. The supervision plan identifies the person's specific risk level and needs, as well as the specific program strategies that can be employed to meet their needs.



FEDERAL AGENCY, LOCAL MANDATE

CSOSA is a federal agency with the distinctly local mandate to supervise adults on probation, parole, and supervised release in the District of Columbia.



CSOSA

This program strategy, coupled with stringent standards of contact and surveillance, helps CSOSA protect the public and provides the people we supervise with the services that they need to improve their lives.

CSOSA assigns supervisees to one of four levels of supervision based on their assessed risk and needs – minimum, medium, maximum, or intensive. An individual’s supervision level directs how often the assigned Community Supervision Officer (CSO) engages with that person. Supervisees are assessed regularly, and their supervision level may change during the course of their supervision period.

CSOs engage regularly with individuals under their supervision to build rapport and relationships that will assist them in successfully completing their supervision obligations. In addition to regular face-to-face contact with the people they supervise, CSOs engage with the collateral contacts of people under supervision. Collateral contacts are the people with whom the supervisee has regular contact, such as roommates, family, and friends.

We center our guiding principles – community, accountability, and justice – in the work that we do.

Community: We believe in the value of partnerships with community organizations, local and federal criminal justice agencies, city government, the faith community, and individual citizens in promoting both successful reintegration and public safety.

Accountability: We believe in the capacity of people to change. Supervisees are held accountable through

a system of close supervision which includes swift interventions, sanctions, incentives, and support services. CSOSA strives to create an environment that is conducive to the success of those under our supervision.

Justice: We support the fair administration of justice through the provision of timely and accurate information and recommendations to criminal justice decision makers. We believe in the efficacy and fairness of our supervision interventions and the implementation of evidence-based practices.

CSOSA does not have the authority to arrest anyone, even if that person is subject to community supervision. CSOSA also does not have the authority to revoke someone’s community supervision and return the individual to incarceration. However, if a supervisee is not complying with the conditions of their release, the assigned CSO will submit an Alleged Violation Report (AVR) to the releasing authority. The releasing authority then may schedule a show cause hearing regarding the alleged non-compliance.

For more information about CSOSA supervision, visit <https://www.csosa.gov/community-supervision/>.

Also available is [*The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia \(PDS\) D.C. Reentry Navigator*](#), which is a comprehensive compilation of expert knowledge and reentry resources for people arrested, charged, tried, or convicted under District of Columbia law. The D.C. Reentry Navigator includes a detailed chapter on Probation, Parole, and Supervised Release in the District of Columbia.

Contact Standards

Supervision Level	Minimum Contact Standards
Intensive	Eight (8) face-to-face contacts with CSO per month, four (4) of which will be conducted in the community.
Maximum	Four (4) face-to-face contacts with CSO per month, two (2) of which will be conducted in the community.
Medium	Two (2) face-to-face contacts with CSO per month, one (1) of which will be conducted in the community.
Minimum	One (1) face-to-face contact with CSO every 90 days.