

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

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Community Corrections

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To my husband and colleague
Frank "Trey" Williams
For all his patience and support

M.D.M.

To my sons Aaron and Brian

W.K.

Preface

Today the myriad programs that fall under the wide umbrella of community corrections may seem confusing and unorganized. Each state, federal, and local jurisdiction has a unique approach to community corrections. The names of programs and their structural frameworks are as individual as the historical, social, and political events that shaped them. However, there are several key factors that make their analysis more meaningful. These include the program goals, the legal context of their operation, the administering agent, and the type of client serviced. These key concepts provide the framework for the journey of this text.

Often when the technical names and titles are put aside it is apparent that most programs have more in common than they do in contrast. Probation and parole are more similar than different and a meaningful exploration of them will bear this out. Likewise, probation and parole officers have characteristically similar roles. The theme of this work is to highlight those similarities through the common bond of community corrections.

Because of the varied approaches to community corrections across the country, the chapters of this text focus on general similarities and differences of programs and not on their technical names and structures. In the past, probation and parole represented the entire range of community corrections programs. In textbooks, they were often presented as two dichotomous entities. Students concentrated on memorizing the differences between them.

Today, some community corrections programs do not even use the terms probation and parole. In other areas, these two traditionally different services may be located in the same government agency. Probation, parole, and their descendant operations now borrow from the

same continuum of program components, namely, intensive supervision, restitution, electronic monitoring, and community service. In addition, these individual program components may serve as independent sanctions and as the means for diversion from the official criminal justice system.

ORGANIZATION

The text is divided into four sections. The first section consists of an overview of community corrections systems. Chapter 1 presents the philosophy and design of community corrections programs. Community-based punishments are contrasted with incarceration in terms of the goals, costs, and perceived benefits of each. Chapter 2 describes the full range of sentencing options available to the court. This section focuses on discretion and the process of decision making, particularly the role of the pre-sentence investigation. Chapter 3 describes the different structures of community corrections systems throughout the country.

The second section of the book deals with the actual community corrections programs available for adult offenders. Chapter 4 covers probation, its history, and current uses. Chapter 5 explains electronic monitoring and house arrest. Chapter 6 describes intensive supervision. Chapter 7 covers financial punishments and community service, which includes programs that administer restitution and fines. Chapter 8 discusses the decision to grant parole and Chapter 9 describes the readjustment of previously incarcerated offenders in the community after release.

The third section of the book focuses on the juvenile offender. Chapter 10 introduces the concept of diversion, the tradition of formal intervention, and the use of community corrections programs with juveniles today, which includes many of the same approaches used with adults, such as restitution, intensive supervision, and probation. However, more attention is paid to prevention in the juvenile population than in adults. Chapter 11 covers the history and current regulation of status offenders, including the runaway and the truant. Chapter 12 explores specific programming that has been historically significant as well as contemporary strategies for servicing juveniles in the community.

The fourth and final section deals with a number of people and process issues. Chapter 13 covers the official response to violations of community corrections contracts. Also included in this section is an overview of the legal challenges that have been raised against the required conditions of supervision. Chapter 14 explains the role of the community supervision officer. This chapter provides an *in-depth* look at probation and parole officers and the changing demands of the work environment. The material presented here is particularly useful for those criminal justice students who are considering a career in community corrections.

Chapter 15 highlights a variety of special needs populations under community supervision. These include the elderly, AIDS patients, the handicapped, the mentally ill, and the mentally retarded offenders as well as the many specific crime category offenders such as arsonists, shoplifters, and sex offenders. Today a large percentage of the supervised population of offenders falls into some special need category or some particular type of treatment group.

One of the largest groups of special needs offenders are those with histories of substance abuse. Chapter 16 explores the range of treatment approaches to drug and alcohol abuse and the types of programs that have been developed in these areas.

The final chapter, Chapter 17, is devoted to exploring research issues in community corrections. The most useful designs for research studies are covered as well as the ethical issues involved in conducting research. The purpose of evaluating programs and the most appropriate methods for doing so are also explained. The application of research results to program evaluation and policy formation is often neglected in other texts. Although each chapter of this work addresses the research that has been conducted to date, this last chapter synthesizes the role of research in community corrections programming.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Each chapter begins with a short statement of purpose and a list of learning objectives. A general summary concludes each chapter and key terms introduced are highlighted. Practice in forming decisions and opinions about these topics as well as listening to others respond to them is valuable in building professional character. The ability to formulate opinions about the various moral and ethical issues involved in corrections should be considered part of the student's basic education. Discussion questions are provided to help stimulate thought about some of the moral and ethical dilemmas that underlie programming of this nature.

A wide range of perspectives, from historical to political, sociological, economic, and legal, are considered. Each sentencing alternative is accompanied by the classic and most current research findings on the subject. References are provided so that these studies can be obtained from the library and explored more fully.

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