

Family and Friends are an Important Part of the Reentry Process!



Family and friends are very important to individuals on supervision. Research reveals that persons on supervision with strong, positive community support networks have more successful supervision outcomes than those who do not.

The United States Probation Office's goal is to help individuals successfully complete supervision and reintegrate into the community. Your role is critical. As a close family member/friend, you know the individual better than anyone. You are the first to notice when they are having trouble coping with the stress of supervision and the first to recognize the warning signs that may lead to noncompliance.

The United States Probation Office is here to help you. Your family member/friend has been assigned to a USPO who will work with them and you to move successfully beyond supervision. The USPO is available to speak with you and if they are not available, you can speak with a supervisor, who will be happy to assist you.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a US Probation Officer?

A US Probation Officer (USPO) is a federal law enforcement employee of the Court who is charged with the duty to monitor the activities of individuals who have been placed on supervision.

What is my family member/friend required to do while on supervision?

Your family member/friend must follow the general and special conditions ordered by the releasing authority (Court or US Parole Commission) while on supervision. They are also expected to be open and honest with the USPO about their activities and needs.

How will the USPO help my family member/friend?

The USPO will assist the individual in complying with the conditions of their release. The USPO will assist in finding services needed to successfully reintegrate into the community. The USPO is required to report to the releasing authority any instances in which they do not obey the rules of supervision. For example, if an individual is using drugs, rearrested, fails to report to the USPO as instructed, the USPO is required to notify the Court or US Parole Commission.

Why are home visits necessary?

Home visits allow the USPO to monitor and assess the individual's stability and compliance. Those who have stable home environments are better able to successfully complete supervision.

What can I expect during a home visit?

The USPO will explain the purpose of the home visit and ask how your family member/friend is adjusting. The USPO will also ask to see where your family member/friend sleeps and verify that they reside at the residence.

Can I accompany my family member/friend on office visits with the USPO?

Yes. Family members and friends play an important role in helping their family member/friend be successful. The probation office encourages family and friends to be active participants in the supervision process. However, there will be times when the USPO will need to meet only with the person on supervision.

What services will be provided to my family member/friend while they are on supervision?

The probation office will assist with employment, educational and vocational training, life skills training, substance abuse treatment and mental health services. Some of these services will be provided at the probation office and others will be provided by our partner organizations.

What information can the USPO share with me about my family member/friend?

Your family member/friend must sign a release of information form giving the USPO permission to discuss on their progress with you. Without a release of information, the information that a USPO can share is limited.