



What happens if I don't complete the assigned hours?

Failure to comply with court-ordered probation rules is a technical violation of your probation. There are many consequences of not completing your community service assignment. They include:

- Revocation of informal adjustment
- Extension of consent decree
- Review hearing with community service coordinator
- Additional community service hours
- Extension of probation supervision
- Hearing before juvenile court judge
- Detention at Montgomery County Youth Center
- Placement in a weekend or residential program
- Payment of fines



Does community service benefit me?

Yes.

- You are making a positive, meaningful contribution to your community.
- Both the victim and community may begin to see that you are trying to make amends for your crime.
- You are making connections with law abiding adults in the community.
- You are demonstrating that you are capable of change for the better.
- You may learn job skills that will help you obtain paid employment.
- You are improving your self image and decision making.

More questions?
 Please Call Bryanna Kirlin,
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 Community Service Unit
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Hon. Risa Vetri Ferman
Juvenile Court Judge

Michael S. Yoder
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Catherine Zalenski
Deputy Chief

**Montgomery County
 Juvenile Probation**

**“Why Do I Have
 To Do
 Community
 Service?”
 and
 Other FAQ’s
 (frequently asked questions)**





What is community service?

Community service is productive, meaningful, unpaid work that benefits nonprofit agencies or special projects in your community or neighborhood. Typical service includes work in parks, schools, libraries, hospitals, art centers, civic groups, fire houses, nature centers, sports and recreation centers, food pantries and places of worship. Special projects have included making cards for soldiers, setting up fairs and 24 hour marathons.



Why do I have to do

There does not have to be a physical injury or financial loss for people to be upset about a crime. There are no victimless crimes; the crime you committed affected everyone in your community or neighborhood. In the balanced and restorative model of justice that is law in Pennsylvania, being accountable means that you take responsibility for the harm that you caused. Community service provides an opportunity to make amends – often in a project or agency selected by the victims. Community service is one way of trying to right a wrong. And, it's a way to say "I'm sorry" to everyone in your community.



How are the number of

In assigning hours, probation and intake officers follow standards that consider the type of crime you committed, your age, school attendance, extracurricular activities such as after school sports and whether you are working full

or part time. The judge may follow the probation officer's recommendation or choose a different number of hours. In either situation, community service is a condition of probation, informal adjustment or consent decree. If you are assigned community service to pay your restitution debts, hours are determined by dividing the amount you owe by the current minimum wage.



Who decides where I will work?

The community service coordinator makes all assignments for community service and will also determine whether you are assigned to an individual assignment or to the work crew.

In assigning you to a site, she will take into account any suggestion by a victim, where you live, your age, your school/work schedule, access to transportation and your skills and interests. Sometimes, your probation officer or the juvenile court judge may make a recommendation for a specific type of work.



What is the difference between individual assignments and the work crew?

In a word, supervision. If you are assigned to the work crew, the crew coordinator will pick you up in a county van, transport you and five other juveniles to a work site, remain with you at the site and then transport you back home. Schedules and the agency or project where you will work are pre-determined. You may be assigned to the work crew if sites are full in your community, you have failed in a previous community service assignment, you require more supervision or the judge or your probation officer recommends it.



Can I choose my own site?

Sometimes. If you have a particular agency where you would like to work, discuss it with the community service coordinator. We will try to accommodate your request. Several conditions apply: the work must be for a non-profit agency, the agency must know that you are doing community service to make amends for a crime you committed and you cannot receive credit for the hours anywhere else. For example, if your school requires community service, the same hours cannot count towards your school's requirements and probation's.



Why do I have a deadline?

Community service is not something you do when you have nothing else to do- it is a priority. Hours must be completed as soon as possible after your intake interview or court hearing. Your hours are based on completing a minimum of five hours per week. Sanctions are enforced if you do not complete the hours by your deadline. Call the community service coordinator if you have a problem, do not wait until she calls you!



How can I do community service if I am under 12 years old?

If you are too young for an individual assignment, you may be assigned to "adopt your block" (keep it clean for a specific period), assigned to the work crew or a special project such as making cards or posters, writing essays, etc. You may also be able to do tasks such as raking leaves, shoveling snow, etc., for elderly or disabled neighbors.

