

## IF I AM AN INMATE IN THE COUNTY JAIL IS COMMUNITY SERVICE AN OPTION?

This entrance to community service only pertains to county jail inmates.

In select instances county jail inmates can be placed at worksites in the community. Their benefit in participating is to earn one (1) day off their county jail term for every three (3) days worked at a community service site. The eligibility of an inmate for the program is determined by the status of their sentence. In this regard the sentencing Judge, the County Sheriffs Department, District Attorney, County Jail staff, and the Justice Programs Coordinator could all or partially determine eligibility.

## WHO CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS?

If the questions involve general information pertaining to community service requirements in the event this option has become part of a disposition you may call:

Stephanie Villella: Washburn County Justice Programs Coordinator—cell number **715 520-7684**. Office number is: **715 468-4734**.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A COURT APPEARANCE AND I WISH TO REQUEST COMMUNITY SERVICE?

If you are represented by an attorney discuss this matter with him/her. If you are not represented by an attorney a direct request could be made to the District Attorney or County Attorney.

## WASHBURN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



## What is it and how does it work? how does it work?

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In most instances the Judge grants community service as an option – in lieu of paying fines for certain court actions. The participant then meets with the Justice Program Coordinator to discuss a work site location. These sites are required to be charitable, non-profit, or governmental.

The balance of this brochure explains specifics of the program.

For additional program questions call the Washburn County Justice Programs Coordinator at **715-468-4734** or **715 520-7684** ©

## WHAT TYPE OF WORK WOULD BE REQUIRED?

The work is varied depending upon the work site. Unless the participant is skilled in some capacity the work is usually not technical. The supervisor at the site will chose duties that are related to the participant's experience.

## WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS NEEDED TO VERIFY HOURS WORKED?

The Justice Programs Coordinator will provide the participant with a time sheet that needs to be signed by the work site supervisor. This time sheet will indicate the hours worked, dates of the work, and other comments if desired. At completion this document is to be returned to the Coordinator .

## WHAT IF I DON'T COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS?

If the community service is ordered as an option in lieu of a fine the failure to complete the hours on time, without an approved extension, could require paying the entire amount unless a deduction is approved by the Judge.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING?

In addition to the opportunity to reduce the financial burden of paying all or a portion of a fine, community service can provide a meaningful and learning work experience in a community environment.

## IS THERE THE POSSIBILITY TO WORK ONLY A PORTION AND PAY THE BALANCE OF A FINE?

In most instances this is an option. However, a record must be kept regarding the hours worked, and documentation provided to the coordinator. Final approval would normally be at the discretion of the Judge.

## IS THERE EVER COMPENSATION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE?

There is no monetary compensation. No actual currency changes hands, however, the reduction in fines can be considered a financial benefit.

## WHAT HAPPENS PRIOR TO WORK BEGINNING?

The participant meets with the coordinator to discuss rules, location, and other aspects. The supervisor of the worksite is contacted and arrangements to meet with the participant and coordinator are made. If the community service is ordered as an alternative to the payment of a fine (an exception is reduction in jail time) the number of hours provided as an option to satisfy the fine is reviewed. Usually the rate is one hour of community service being equal to a reduction of \$10.00 in the fine.

## RULES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE/ WHAT ARE THEY?

The completion of the community service involves participating at the worksite under supervision of the particular site supervisor for the allotted hours. Usually there is a due date for completion. Other rules would be as expected for any job; sobriety, being on time and prepared to work, courtesy towards others in the workplace and willingness to follow directions