

- Offenders who live outside Dakota County must proceed to Community Corrections to meet with community work service staff after meeting with County Attorney Program Coordinator.
 - Offenders who live within Dakota County must contact the designated community work staff person to arrange their community work service.
4. **Statement to Law Enforcement Agency.** In some cases the investigating law enforcement officer may require an additional statement concerning the offender's involvement in the incident. If so, the offender must contact the designated officer by the date specified.
 5. **Other Conditions.** In some cases, offenders are required to comply with additional conditions. These additional conditions will be outlined in the Program agreement.

Program Outcomes

If the offender successfully completes all of the conditions of the Community Accountability Program as established in the agreement, the County Attorney's Office will dismiss the case.

If the offender fails to timely complete any condition of the agreement, or it is determined that the offender committed a new offense while participating in the program, the County Attorney's office will begin prosecution of the offense. Prosecution of the new offense would occur in the county where such offense took place.

If you have questions regarding the Community Accountability Program, or concerns regarding restitution, you may contact:

Dakota County Attorney
Program Coordinator
1560 Highway 55
Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2392
(651) 438-4438
www.dakotacounty.us/attorney

Offenders who are represented by private attorneys must obtain prior approval from their attorney to speak directly with the Program Coordinator. Questions specifically related to community work service may be answered by the designated community work service staff person from Dakota County Community Corrections (651) 438-8288.

Dakota County Community Accountability Program

For First Time Property Offenders

A Guide For Program Participants

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DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY



Introduction

In 1993 the Minnesota Legislature mandated that County Attorneys in all Community Corrections Act counties develop and implement a program designed to divert adult offenders from the criminal justice system prior to entry of a conviction. Since Dakota County is a Community Corrections Act county, the Dakota County Attorney's Office has developed a Community Accountability Program for adult criminal offenders who commit crimes which fall within the jurisdiction of the Dakota County Attorney.

Program

Goals

The goals of the Community Accountability Program are to:

- Create an incentive for first-time low risk property offenders to change their behavior
- Ensure full and prompt payment of restitution to crime victims
- Hold offenders accountable to society
- Reduce costs associated with the criminal justice system

Overview of the Program

Offenders who are accepted into the Community Accountability Program must complete the following forms:

- 1) Affidavit in Support of Request to Continue Criminal Proceedings;
- 2) Community Accountability agreement; and
- 3) Community Work Service form.

The Affidavit in Support of Request to Continue Criminal Proceedings is completed at the time the offender requests to participate in the program. The Affidavit must be submitted to the County Attorney's Office to begin the screening process for determining eligibility for the program.

If an offender is eligible for the program, the Community Accountability agreement and Community Work Service form are completed and signed by the offender at the Omnibus hearing.

The Community Accountability agreement outlines the terms that the offender must follow to successfully complete the program.

If the offender fails to comply with the terms, the offender will be terminated from the Community Accountability Program and a hearing will be scheduled to resume criminal prosecution of the case.

The Community Work Service form notifies the offender of the name of the community work service staff person from Community Corrections who will assist the offender in establishing a work plan and setting up a work site. Once a work plan has been established, it becomes an essential part of the Community Accountability agreement with which the offender must comply.

Program Components

1. **Restitution.** If the victim of the offense incurred a loss, the offender will be required to pay restitution.
2. **Program Fee.** Offenders must pay a monthly fee to participate in the program. The fee is set for a period of 12 months. In lieu of paying the fee, offenders may choose to perform an additional sixty (60) hours of community work service which will be applied toward the program fee.
3. **Community Work Service.** The number of hours of community work service is assessed by the level of the offender's offense as follows:

Felony	40 hours
Gross Misdemeanor	30 hours
Misdemeanor	25 hours

Note:

- Offenders must comply with the community work service plan established by Community Corrections or they may be terminated from the program. Once an offender has completed at least 50% of the total community work service obligation, the remaining community work service hours may be paid off at a rate set by Community Corrections. An offender must also be current on the restitution and program fee payments, to convert the remaining hours.