

**ECHO IDAHO**

Substance Use in Idaho

# Parole Officer Roles in SUD Treatment

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None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.



Who am I?

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Misdemeanor Probation Officer  
with a specialized caseload of  
Domestic Violence offenders.

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Former Felony Probation Officer  
(Phoenix, AZ)

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I specialize in supervising clients  
with high-risk behaviors

# Learning Objectives

- Describe what Probation is
- The Probation Officers (POs) role
- Court conditions providers should know
- How POs support treatment
- How providers help POs
- What POs wish providers knew

# What is Probation?

Probation is a rehabilitative alternative to incarceration that requires compliance with specific conditions and allows them to remain in the community.



Those conditions include, but are not limited to:

Abide by the law

No drug or alcohol use and random drug and alcohol testing

Evaluations to determine treatment needs

Meetings with Probation Officer



The benefits of Probation include maintaining employment and family ties.

# The Role of a Probation Officer

- Monitor compliance with and enforcement of court orders
- Oversee drug/alcohol testing
  - Used for monitoring compliance
  - Random
  - Missed tests = noncompliance
  - Positives/diluted addressed
- Refer to treatment and programs
  - Encourage behavior change
- Report to court
- Address violations/noncompliance
- Balance accountability and support

# The Reality of Clients We Supervise

- Ada County Misdemeanor Probation supervised 1,460 offenders in the first quarter of 2026.
  - 40% of those cases involved alcohol
  - 7% of those cases involved drugs
- Mental Health concerns and history of trauma
- Unstable housing, finances and relationships
- Distrust of systems

Charge	% of Cases
Alcohol	40%
Child Crime	3%
Domestic	29%
Driving	1%
Drugs	7%
Property	7%
Sex Crime	2%
Stalking	>1%
Violence	11%

# Client Mindset

Denial

Minimization

Defensive

Fear of systems

Difficulty trusting  
providers and  
probation

Blame others  
and/or the  
system

Overwhelmed

# High-Risk Behaviors

Missed tests

Continued drug  
or alcohol use

Inconsistent  
attendance

Financial  
noncompliance

Attempts to  
manipulate



University of Idaho  
School of Health and Medical  
Professions



# What POs Wish Providers Knew

Large caseloads

Need communication

- Input is valuable

No news = noncompliance

Court deadlines matter

Limited flexibility due to court requirements

What  
Providers  
Wish POs  
Knew

Recovery is not linear

Relapse happens

Trust takes time

Barriers are real

Not all noncompliance is intentional

# Working Together

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Communicate early and  
consistently

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Share concerns

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Clarify conditions/expectations

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Problem-solve Barriers

# Key Points

Recovery

Stability

Accountability

Community safety