

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS



Notice of Authority-Role of the Probation/Pretrial Services Officer

U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officers serve as officers of the court, as well as agents of the U.S. Parole Commission, Military Parole Authorities, and U.S. Bureau of Prisons. They are responsible for the supervision of all persons conditionally released to the community by these entities. As a part of that responsibility, they will make sure you are aware of your conditions of release and hold you accountable for all of them. They will make home and community visits with you on a regular basis and may require you to visit them at their office. They may also contact family members and/or employers. They may restrict your travel for a period of time and may want you to provide certain documents to verify your employment, financial status, and residence. They may also refer you to other agencies who will assist you with various issues in your life and will communicate with these agencies on a regular basis. Additionally, if you are in violation of your conditions, they will address these issues with you and notify the authorities who placed you on community supervision. Probation officers want you to be successful on supervision and will work with you to accomplish that.

In part, the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Charter for Excellence states: U.S. Probation Officers “are committed to excellence” and “strive to make communities safer and to make a positive difference in the lives of those people they serve.” They “act with integrity; treat everyone with dignity and respect; promote fairness; and be responsible and accountable.” The full Charter can be viewed on the district’s website: www.txnp.uscourts.gov.

The following are examples of the officer acting *within* his/her role as a probation/pretrial services officer:

- Requiring you to comply fully with your conditions of supervision.
- Holding you accountable for your conviction, even though you may not believe you were fairly convicted.
- Requiring you to attend meetings with your officer, appointments with a therapist, or submitting drug tests, even though it may be inconvenient for you.
- Instructing you to maintain a job, submit a check stub or annual tax return or denying your travel.
- Confronting you on your violation behavior or poor choices.

If you believe your officer has acted outside his/her authority in any way, please notify your officer’s supervisor. If this contact is unsuccessful, you may contact a Deputy Chief at 214-753-2500.

Supervised Releasee/Probationer

Date

U.S. Probation Officer

Date