

Community service means setting to work

You have been convicted of committing a crime. The judge or the public prosecutor has imposed a community service order on you. The Dutch Probation Service makes sure that you carry out the community service correctly.

Initial interview

Before you start the community service, you will be allocated a probation officer, and then there will be an initial interview. During this interview, we will discuss your community service order, your background and your domestic situation.

Then we will decide how your community service will be arranged. If you are still at school, have a job or run your own company, we try to take this into account. We look, for example, at the days you are available to carry out the community work, but it is not always possible to find the right combination. In the end, we decide when and where you have to perform the community service. So you might have to take time off work to carry out the community service.

What does a community service order involve?

You might have to work in the parks and gardens department, in a hospital or in forestry. You will not receive money or any other payment for this. Any travel expenses are at your own expense. During your community service, you might be working in a group project with others who, like you, are carrying out community service. Or you might find yourself in a company or institution where people are in a paid job. There will always be a supervisor present.

This person will keep a close eye on whether you work well with everyone and whether you are carrying out the community service in the correct way.

A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER



Rules are there for a reason

All the rules and arrangements that were agreed on during the initial interview are recorded on paper and signed by you. If you fail to comply with the arrangements, we will give you an official warning.

For example, if you do not turn up on time, are absent without a valid reason or do not carry out the work instructions. If you still do not keep to the agreements after an official warning, we will end the community service. It is then likely that the judge will decide that you have to go to prison. This is never in your favour because two hours of community service represents one day in prison. So make sure you keep to the rules and complete your community service without problems.

In short

- You are obliged to carry out your community service.
- During an initial interview, we make arrangements on where and when you have to carry out the community service.
- You have to pay your own travel expenses.
- The travelling time to your community service project does not count towards the hours of the punishment.
- You are not allowed to use an mp3 player, iPod or mobile phone.
- You are not allowed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs or have these or firearms in your possession.
- Make sure that you are always on time.
- You must make time available to do your community service.
- Do not cause any problems while you are carrying out your punishment.

The Dutch Probation Service

Towards a safer society

The Dutch Probation Service

The Dutch Probation Service or *Reclassering Nederland* is working to build a safer society. We cooperate with the judicial authorities, the police, the prison system and municipalities to prevent criminality and reduce re-offending.

Our task is to assess and produce recommendations for the judges, public prosecutors and prison authorities. In addition, we are charged with the supervision of suspects and offenders. And we make sure that those convicted carry out their community service. We try to motivate people to change their behaviour by a mixture of persuasion and coercion. Society is entitled to this. And it is also in the interest of suspects and convicted persons.

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