

The Revised Community Corrections Officer Orientation Scale

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Introduction

Two officers have been discussing their work with a new officer in training. During the conversation, the following statements were made. Please show how much you relate to each statement pair by circling one of the seven points between them.

Instructions

On the following pages you will see two statements an officer might make about a particular aspect of his or her job. You will notice that the two statements stress different values in an officer's role. You can agree with one of the statements completely, while disagreeing with the other completely, or you can agree with each to some degree. If you agree partially with both statements, you can select a point between the two that shows you agree with some characteristics of one and some of the other statement.

With this in mind, please rate yourself on the spectrum. If you completely agree with the statement on the left, but completely disagree with the statement on the right, circle point -3. If you completely agree with the statement on the right, but completely disagree with the statement on the left, circle point +3.

If you agree with both statements, but agree with the statement on one side more than the other, circle the number closer to the side you agree with more. And, if you agree with both statements equally, circle point 0.

Circle one number to show where you stand today

1.

A person *decides* to break the law due to psychological pressures and social circumstances.

A person is predisposed to break the law by things he cannot control. These include genetics, psychological, and social circumstances.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

2.

The causes of crime are internal to the offender. These include personality and choice.

The causes of crime are external to the offender. These include things like neighborhood poverty and lack of resources.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

3.

In the first meetings, you should find how the offender feels about his past behaviors. Then talk about where they've gotten him, and ask if he would behave differently now.

The first meeting with an offender should focus on confidence that he can adjust, while making realistic, clear goals. You should avoid talking about the past.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

4.

As problems come up during supervision, it is useful to point out bad decisions and selfish behavior. You can compare these to past problems the offender had.

Encourage the offender to reach reasonable goals, and help him to be strong in handling himself. Try not to talk about past behavior unless he suggests it.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

5.

Always remember that each offender has the potential to violate. Even so, treat them in a way that does not decrease your confidence that you can help other offenders.

Concentrate on helping the offender develop work and adjustment skills. Increase his confidence that he can live in an acceptable way. Although rule violations are possible, avoid bringing up your concerns about them.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

6.

Within ten years of release, more offenders will commit another crime than those who become productive people.

If you do good work helping him reform his behavior, you can help reduce an offender's chances of committing another crime.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

7.

We can classify criminals into types because they identify tendencies to behave in certain ways. An offender's type should be considered in supervision.

Crime type is a label that does not necessarily reflect the many personalities and problems that cause crime.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

8.

Seeing the offender through his type of offense(s) keeps the officer from getting too involved with him as an individual. It enables the officer to be more effective in relating to him.

It is important to get involved in a case, because the more we do, the more we see the offender as an individual with needs we can attend.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

9.

It is best to approach supervision by asking: What problems seem to be a behavior pattern we should work on?

It is best to approach the supervision relationship by asking: what are the offender's needs we can help with?

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

10.

Narcotics users are very difficult to deal with, because so many seem to enjoy using drugs.

Even though narcotics users are a problem, modern treatments can help. We need to determine which program fits the parolee's needs - i.e., tailor a program for him.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

11.

We should focus on keeping the community safe from offenders' potential to commit crimes.

If we focus on rehabilitation, we will not need to focus on protecting the community. It will naturally follow.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

12.

It is most important to maintain control. This is done through monitoring and other frequent contacts with the offender.

Main focus should be on providing services to the offender, such as counseling, job skills, psychological referrals and assistance. Control measures should be minimal.

3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

13.

If an offender has a hard time being accepted by others, it is probably a sign that he's not ready to reenter society.

When an offender feels rejected, it adds to the sense of alienation and anti-social thinking. This makes him more of a criminal.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

14.

At best, probation and parole should help the offender lead a law abiding life. This is so that he can continue good behavior without supervision.

The offender should gain insight into himself and his behavior during probation and parole. This happens while working with officers through problems.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

15.

Rules and regulations help to prevent offenders from doing things that are dangerous. This is because they require officers' approval for requests.

Requiring officer approval for requests makes the rules a learning tool. This helps the officer and offender discuss the pros and cons of important decisions.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

16.

The rules of supervision should be viewed as the lowest acceptable standards of living in society.

Rules and regulations should be used as a guide, giving the offender experience living in an orderly, acceptable manner. But these rules may reflect a middle-class morality not all offenders agree with.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

17.

Rules and regulations help to evaluate if the offender plans to be a useful citizen.

Rules help to check if the offender can fulfill important responsibilities to himself and others.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

18.

Curfews and structure are helpful because they can keep offenders from being places at times they are likely to get into trouble.

Curfews and structure are extra restrictions, and show offenders you do not think they can take care of themselves. Restrictions should exist only if the offenders' behavior warrants them.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

19. The rules and regulations are an offender's contract with the community. Breaking the contract should mean punishment.

Rules and Regulations are a contract, and should be interpreted in context with the offender. If we have the option to punish, we should consider the offender's intent and needs.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

20. Rules and regulations should be enforced the same for everyone without exception. Otherwise, offenders might think you are using favoritism.

Even if they suspect favoritism at first, offenders will come to respect the officer's judgment over time.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

21. No matter what he says, the best way to guess an offender's current and future behavior is by watching how well he follows rules.

What the offender says is important in evaluating if he can live up to his responsibilities.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

22. An offender misses two appointments in a row without telling you about them beforehand. Even if he had been doing well before, you should request sanctions.

If an offender has been doing well but misses two consecutive appointments, you should find out what has been going on before requesting sanctions.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

23. Officers should not work extra hours unless they are being paid by the State for overtime.

Officers should deal with the offender's needs and provide services, even if it means working extra hours without pay.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

24. Schedules can and should be adjusted so that paperwork can be completed, and offenders' needs can be addressed in that time frame.

There is not enough time in the present day pay period to complete paperwork and offender services.

-3

-2

-1

0

+1

+2

+3

Scenario 1

J. is a 31 year old who pleaded guilty to methamphetamine manufacturing. Graduation from a substance abuse program occurred 7 years ago as part of another probation agreement. No other arrests occurred until this most recent one. The sentence conditions include employment. How will you introduce yourself to J.? Think about it, no answer necessary.

Scenario 2

This is your second interaction at the landscaping company in the 6 weeks of supervision. The company owner advises that J. has not reported to work today or yesterday. How are you most likely to react? Choose one.

25. Strategies:

- A. Ask J. what the plan is for dealing with the situation, and offer feedback.
- B. Remind J. of the supervision requirement for employment, and review the possible outcomes of various choices.
- C. Listen to J.'s explanation, then make a plan with J. to overcome the obstacle.
- D. Tell J. that noncompliance with the supervision conditions will result in asking the judge for jail time.
- E. Allow natural consequence to follow, knowing that J. might become unemployed.
- F. Offer to decrease the number of report times if J. can go without missing work for a length of time that you set.
- G. Offer to meet with J. and J.'s boss to discuss the issue.

Scenario 3

After addressing the first issue, J. is now 4 months into supervision when a drug test comes back positive for a small amount of alcohol. How are you likely to react? Choose one.

26. Strategies:

- A. Come up with a clear plan J. and you agree will sustain sobriety
- B. Discuss strategies to avoid future alcohol use.
- C. Require more frequent reporting.
- D. Threaten with jail time.
- E. Ask for a court date to have the judge speak to J. and or request revocation.
- F. Encourage J. to call you to talk about it the next time temptations to drink or use drugs occurs.
- G. Offer to let J. report less frequently if sobriety is demonstrated for a length of time that you set.

Scenario 4

Six months later you stop by to see J.'s boss and he advises that J. is getting a promotion and a raise in 2 weeks! You then go to J.'s residence to check on the \$80 in supervision fee arrearage. J.'s mother says you'll have to go to K.'s house because that's where J. is staying now. How are you most likely to react?

27. Write several statements below – does not require complete sentences

Please continue to the last page

INSTRUCTIONS: If you would like the results of this scale returned to you while ensuring your anonymity, complete the anonymity code.

Anonymity Code: _____

28. First letter of your mother's first name _____
29. Last letter of your mother's last name _____
30. First digit of your social security number _____
31. Last digit of your social security number _____

32. Gender: ✓ all that apply.....Female Male Transgender Cisgender

33. Race: ✓ all that applyAfrican American or Black Asian American Indian
Alaska Native Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander White/Caucasian
Other: _____

34. Are you Hispanic or Latino?.....Yes or No

35. Age..... _____

36. Marital status: ✓ all that apply Single, never married Separated
Divorced Widowed
Cohabiting, not married Married

37. Highest grade of school you have completed: ✓ only one4-year college degree
Some graduate school
Master's or professional degree
Doctorate
None of the above

38. In what area is your highest degree? ✓ only one or leave blank if none..... Criminal justice
Social work Counseling Education Psychology, sociology or other social science
Other: _____

39. Ever been employed in the following fields? ✓ all that apply. Criminal/juvenile justice
Human services (counseling, etc.)
Other: _____ No

40. Current job title: leave blank if unemployed _____ How long? _____
Months Years

41. I am in recovery from alcohol or other drug use Yes No Don't know

42. I am in recovery from a mental health condition..... Yes No Don't know

43. I am a returning citizen or a person who since being convicted has desisted/stopped
committing crimes Yes No Don't know

Please click [here](#) and enter each of your above answers.

Thank you for completing this survey!