The Somerset County Community Corrections Program (SCCCP)

The SCCCP offers a variety of programs in Somerset County, from pretrial screening, release and supervision, to post-conviction re-entry and community re-integration. Working closely with a variety of local and regional stakeholders, our goal is to ensure that each inmate is able to reintegrate into their community, while providing a level of supervision and accountability to promote public safety.

The primary goal of the SCCCP is to offer supervised release contracts to promote the integrity of the Judicial Process while offering an alternative to incarceration for appropriate offenders. Defendants who violate their conditions of release are subject to immediate arrest and return to the Somerset County Jail.

**Pretrial Services:**

This program is available to any criminal defendant who has not made bail on criminal charges prior to initial appearance. Special consideration is given to the nature of the offense as well as the defendant’s criminal history, prior to the initiation of a pre-trial contract.

 Defendants who are released on a pre-trial contract are subject to strict monitoring by SCCCP until their case has been adjudicated by the court.

**Home Release Monitoring:**

Also known as “House Arrest”, this program is an intensive early release service available to sentenced individuals. (Pursuant to Title 30-A, Chapter13 Ss. 1659A.)

The Home Release Monitoring Program focuses on four key elements: rehabilitation, reintegration, education and employment.

Inmates who are considered for Home Release Monitoring must meet very strict statutory requirements for eligibility. These requirements include enrollment in an outside employment, education, or counseling program, as well as a stable residence. Their offense must be non-violent in nature and the offender must not have any significant criminal history. The SCCCP Supervisor seeks sentiment from many different community stakeholders including the District Attorney’s Office, local law enforcement agencies, corrections officials, probation & parole and others before making a recommendation to the Sheriff for home release monitoring. Only the Sheriff has the authority to release an inmate under Title 30-A.

Defendants are screened using nationally validated risk assessment tools. These assessments are used to determine the potential threat to public safety, level of risk for failure to appear, likelihood or recidivism, and to identify any unmet mental health, substance abuse, housing or employment needs that may be connected to risk.
Inmates on this program may also be subject to electronic monitoring (ankle bracelet).

Home Release inmates remain on the program until the completion of their court imposed sentence.

**Graduated Sanctions Program:**

This program is a result of an agreement between the SCCCP and State of Maine Probation & Parole. Probation Officers may refer their clients to this program as an alternative to incarceration for any technical violations; (i.e. failure to gain employment, noncompliance with counseling, positive drug screens.) This program is offered in lieu of a formal probation violation which generally results in the offender’s arrest and incarceration in the Somerset County Jail.

**Other Programs:**

The SCCCP works cooperatively with other community agencies such as Maine Pretrial Services, the Maine Co-Occurring Disorders Court, the Kennebec County-based KeRRP/CARA programs as well as numerous other social service and criminal justice programs.

Prepared by Teresa Brown, Program Manager Somerset County Community Corrections Program