American Correctional Association

PUBLIC CORRECTIONAL POLICY ON COMMUNITY SERVICE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

2001-2

Introduction:

Establishing a sense of community is an important part of the rehabilitation process of offenders. Whether within an institution or as part of community corrections, it is beneficial to promote community service for offenders to assist their reentry into society and to promote the positive restoration within the community of the harm that criminal activity has caused.

Policy Statement:

The ACA supports community service for offenders and urges its use consistent with correctional management principles and public safety objectives.

While promoting community service, justice systems and institutions must consider factors that contribute to the success of the effort for the offender and the public.

Therefore, when developing criteria for successful community service efforts, criminal justice and rehabilitative programs must:

A. Enhance public safety;

B. Integrate the offender into the community;

C. Contribute to principles of restorative justice;

D. Gain public support for programs and promoting acceptance of offenders;

E. Enhance the self-esteem of offenders by using their time, talents and skills to benefit themselves and others;

F. Provide value to government, the community and nonprofit organizations;

G. Provide valuable, transferable skills to offenders;

H. Balance community service with other responsibilities including family and work, and the availability of transportation;

I. Restore public confidence in offenders; and

J. Maintain public confidence in the justice system.
This Public Correctional Policy was unanimously ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Winter Conference in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 24, 2001. It was last reviewed and affirmed at the 2011 Winter Conference in San Antonio, TX, Feb. 1, 2011.