

Cause and effect: your situation viewed from all angles

You are suspected of having committed a crime. Your case will soon come to court and the judge or the public prosecutor will then give a judgment. That judgment is partly based on the report drawn up by the Dutch Probation Service. We consider all aspects of your situation so that we can draw up our advice as well as possible.

Your story

If you are suspected of having committed a crime, it is not only just a question of the consequences but there are often also causes to be taken into account. We would like to hear from you what those causes could be. If you say you are innocent, we want to know that as well. We consider your statement in the light of your background and personal circumstances. We are expected to give our view of your situation. This is one of the reasons why we would like to talk to people from your immediate circle. By talking to your family, your employer or your family doctor, we can get a good picture of your life. And, as a result, we can give better advice, but you have to give your consent for this contact.

Likely to reoffend?

Your own story is just one aspect that is taken into account when we draw up the report. Other factors include the nature of the crime, the police report, the judicial files and any psychiatric reports. These form the basis of our risk analysis. We will also give you advice on how to avoid further trouble with the law in future. We can suggest a behavioural training programme, for instance, or some form of treatment.

Advice from the Dutch Probation Service

THE DUTCH PROBATION SERVICE PROVIDES THE JUDICIAL SECTOR WITH INDEPENDENT ADVICE



What will the advisory report say?

Before we submit our advice, we always inform you of what it says and what we have based it on. We correct any factual errors. You can tell us if you disagree with certain points in the advice. If we do not reach agreement, we also refer to your opinion in our advice. We then submit our advice to the Court.

In short

- The Dutch Probation Service assesses your situation and draws up its advice.
- This advice includes:
 - Your and our perception of the events;
 - Your circumstances;
 - A risk analysis: the likelihood of reoffending;
 - Advice on how to prevent reoffending.
- The advisory report is an important factor in the Court's decision.
- It is sensible to tell your own story.
- Once enough information has been obtained about you, we report to the court. Even if you do not cooperate.
- We always discuss our advice with you before we give our advice to the Court.

Cooperate

You are not obliged to cooperate with the Dutch Probation Service, but it could be in your own interest to do so. Because the advice that we draw up plays a significant part in the Court's decision.

If you cooperate with us, it is much more likely that the judge and the public prosecutor will then give a balanced opinion. We can still produce an advisory report even if you do not cooperate with us.

The Dutch Probation Service

Towards a safer society

The Dutch Probation Service

The Dutch Probation Service (*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 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 interests of suspects and convicted persons.

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