

Persons Sent by the Courts to Provide Community Service

It is the recommendation that a school or any institution that includes a school should not allow persons to perform community service that is part of an alternative sentencing by a court.

Even the practice of using parishes without schools as a place for providing community service as part of an alternative sentencing by a court is discouraged.

If it is determined that the parish will allow such community service to be performed on its property, the Diocese recommends that prior to approving such service a representative of the parish meet with the probation officer to determine the nature of the crime committed and the limitations/conditions imposed on the offender.

If it is then determined that the offender will provide service, it is further recommended that the individual be immediately supervised while doing the work to insure that there is no independent access to minors, confidential information, money or other valuable property.

These criteria are difficult to meet, which is the reason that the use of parishes as places for providing community service as part of an alternative sentencing by a court is discouraged.

If a parish feels it cannot meet the criteria for safe use of offenders, it is better not to attempt it at all. Even one mistake will be very costly in so many ways.

Not prescinding from all of the above, in the end the decision rests with the leadership of the parish or school.