

A pre-sentence report helps the judge to:

- Understand you
- Know how a sentence could impact you and your family
- Give you a sentence that ensures you do not get into more trouble or cause further harm

Going to a pre-sentence report interview is the next step in your journey through the justice system.

Choosing to come to your pre-sentence report interview can benefit you and your family.

A probation officer will interview you, welcome your family's involvement, and offer you support and information. Please get in touch to find out more.

Choosing not to attend your pre-sentence report interview could mean you are sentenced without the judge knowing important things about you. It might also mean they have fewer sentencing options available to them.



Checklist

- Have you asked your family/important people in your life to support you?
- Have you told us if you need help getting to the interview or have a particular need?
- Have you collected the things that could be helpful to have for your interview?
- Have you contacted us if you have any questions or concerns?
- Have you let us know if your contact details have changed?



Contact us

If you do not hear from us within 2 weeks of being in court, please contact your local Community Corrections office, your lawyer or the court.

Contact details / appointment information:

There is more information online:

[Corrections.govt.nz](https://www.corrections.govt.nz): Pre-sentence Reports

[Justice.govt.nz](https://www.justice.govt.nz): Going to Court

[CommunityLaw.org.nz](https://www.communitylaw.org.nz): How the judge decides your sentence



Pre-Sentence Reports

Also known as Provision of Advice to Courts



Information for people awaiting sentencing and their family

What's in it for me and my family?

» A chance to share your story:

- Who you are, your connections to people and places, and what's important to you and your family
- What has been happening for you and how you got into trouble
- How you feel about your offending now and the harm you have caused

» A chance to say what you want your future to look like:

- Your goals and plans
- What support you need or might already be getting to help you avoid more trouble
- Which sentences would be possible for you
- How sentences could affect your family or community

» The judge will be better-informed to make their decision:

- The judge needs a pre-sentence report to consider an electronically monitored sentence
- Finding you the right type of support
- Telling the judge if there is a barrier to you doing a particular sentence

» Connecting with Community Corrections so you can:

- Get any information/support you might want
- Ask any questions you have
- Understand next steps
- Find out about services that could help
- Show you are willing to work well with us

What is a pre-sentence report?

Your pre-sentence report is about you, so you need to be involved. We welcome your family's involvement too (it's helpful to understand how they can support you). You and your lawyer will get a copy of the report before your hearing.

The judge needs a pre-sentence report to consider giving you an electronically monitored sentence. We suggest that you talk with us about what makes a good address for electronic monitoring as early as possible. There is more information on the www.Corrections.govt.nz website ([Electronic Monitoring](#)).

The probation officer will listen to you, but they decide what goes in the report. The report is also based on information from the court and risk assessments. The probation officer will recommend a suitable sentence, but it is the judge's decision.

You might also have an alcohol and drug assessment, a psychological report, a [Hōkai Tapuwae cultural assessment](#) or arrange an independent cultural report. You will still need a pre-sentence report because it contains different information for the judge.

If you decide not to go to your pre-sentence report interview, the judge may not have all the information they need. You may or may not have another interview opportunity. You might be sentenced without your voice being heard.



What happens next?

A probation officer will contact you to arrange a time and place to meet for your interview. The interview can take 1 to 2 hours. There might be a home visit too.

It is important that you feel comfortable and able to talk openly, so the judge can get all the information they need.

The interview will start with getting to know you.

What do you need to do?

Before we meet, tell us if you need support with:

- Getting to the interview
- Communication (e.g. do you have a disability affecting your communication or need a translator?)
- Feeling comfortable during the interview (e.g. would you prefer to start with karakia or that we meet in a quiet place?)
- Talking about something that might be difficult
- Talking to your family (including if you do not want to share something with them)
- Getting help with anything urgent
- Understanding what the next steps are

Bringing these things to the interview is helpful:

- Important documents (e.g. course certificate, letter from your doctor or counsellor, proof of employment or if you are enrolled in a course). If you are unsure, please bring it with you.
- Phone numbers for your support people.
- If you are putting forward an address for electronic monitoring, bring the address and details of those who live there.