
Probationers as Informants

329.1 POLICY

The Yolo County Probation Department will cooperate with the District Attorney's Office and other local law enforcement agencies regarding the use of probationers as confidential informants under the following guidelines:

1. A confidential informant is any person who knowingly provides information in confidence to law enforcement related to another's criminal activity and who, as a general rule expects some form of benefit or advantage for himself, herself, or another person in return. The identity of the informant is kept confidential within the law enforcement agency and in crime reports, warrant applications, and judicial proceedings.
2. A probationer who requests or is requested to act as a confidential informant will be screened for suitability by the Chief Probation Officer and/or designee. The law enforcement agency that intends to use the probationer as an informant should provide the Probation Department the following information: **1) nature of probationer's involvement, 2) duration of the activity or operation, 3) out of area travel requirements if any.**
3. If a law enforcement agency uses a probationer as a confidential informant, all documents pertaining to the probationer's role as an informant will be kept in a separate, locked, confidential file and retained under the control of the Supervisor of the appropriate unit.
4. Under no circumstances shall Department staff make informal agreements with probationers for their use as informants in order to hold in abeyance a violation of probation.
5. Should a probationer who is acting as a confidential informant commit a violation of probation, the Unit Supervisor will determine the appropriate disposition and action to take.
6. Juveniles are not to be used as informants under any circumstances.