

Temporary precautionary measures taken by the Criminal Sanctions Agency of Finland to curb the spread of coronavirus in the enforcement of community sanctions

Pre-sentence reports

- If possible, district courts will postpone hearings.
- In urgent cases, when the court hearing is during the exceptional measures or right after, the Criminal Sanctions Agency prepares pre-sentence reports at the request of the prosecutor.
- Interviews of the accused person to assess the person's suitability for a community sanction are carried out over the telephone or Skype.
- Consent of the sentenced person and approval of sentence plan are requested orally during the telephone call.

Enforcement of community sanctions

- Already sentenced community sanctions will be commenced.
- Community sanctions clients are not met in person in the office or elsewhere unless for a very weighty reason.
- Enforcement of ongoing community sanctions continues with adjusted sentence plans. The sentence plans have been changed so that the clients can fulfil their obligation to participate in activities also from their home if it is possible. The activities can be, among other things, written assignments, online assignments provided by substance abuse and mental health services, discussions about specific themes, and individual programmes with the supervisor over the telephone or Skype.
- It is important that the clients continue to receive the support they need and, for example, do not need to stop their substance rehabilitation during these exceptional circumstances.

Community service

- Content of ongoing community service sentences is changed so that the clients can fulfil their obligation to participate in activities also from their home if it is possible, if working is not possible in accordance with the guidelines for protective measures during the epidemic. The activities can be, among other things, written assignments, online assignments provided by substance abuse and mental health services, discussions about specific themes, and individual programmes with the supervisor over the telephone or Skype.
- The client is not obliged to come to the office to meet the Criminal Sanctions Official. Community service is scheduled and supervised with telephone calls.

Monitoring sentence

- New monitoring sentences will be postponed.
- The sentence plans of the ongoing monitoring sentences are revised so that the daily programme includes activities the sentenced offenders are obliged to do at home.

Activities outside home are not included in the programme, but the sentenced offender may go out in accordance with general instructions given by the authorities during the epidemic.

- Control visits of the supervision patrol are performed briefly outdoors.

Juvenile punishment

- Already sentenced juvenile punishments will be commenced.
- The underaged client and her/his guardians will be contacted by telephone.
- The enforcement of ongoing community sanctions continues with adjusted sentence plans. The activities can be, among other things, written assignments, online assignments provided by substance abuse and mental health services, discussions about specific themes, and individual programmes with the supervisor over the telephone or Skype.
- The clients are not obliged to come to the office to meet their supervisor.

Supervision of conditionally sentenced young offenders, ancillary supervision of conditional imprisonment and supervision of conditional release

- The enforcement of ongoing and already sentenced continues with adjusted sentence plans. The activities can be, among other things, written assignments, online assignments provided by substance abuse and mental health services, discussions about specific themes, and individual programmes with the supervisor over the telephone or Skype.
- The clients are not obliged to come to the office to meet their supervisor.

Probationary liberty under supervision

- The enforcement continues with adjusted sentence plans.
- Necessary precautionary measures should be taken during the preparation, e.g. avoiding near contact during the inspection of the residence and the interview of the persons living in the same residence.
- Angle tags may be installed. Special hygiene instructions, such as wearing personal protective equipment, should be followed during the installation and removal of the angle tags.