



**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

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February 16, 2022

Dear Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee,

As a member of the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission (the "Commission"), I appreciate the opportunity to advance this recommendation from the Commission by testifying in support of HB 2658, a bill that would help increase the likelihood of success of people on community supervision and contribute to reducing violations. HB 2658 updates the standard conditions of supervision to make instructions clearer so that people can comply and not make mistakes due to confusion.

To improve community supervision in Kansas, over the course of two and a half years members of the Commission worked closely with national experts, examined policies from other states, reviewed reports and research on best practices, and heard from various criminal justice system stakeholders.

During this effort Commission members learned that there was no standardized format and no consistent standard conditions of supervision across the state.

- Standard conditions of supervision vary by jurisdiction in the number, type, length and complexity across the state and do not meet best practice guidelines.
- They range in length from 1 to 7 pages, with one area having as many as 55 different conditions of supervision.
- Of the 66 separate documents submitted by jurisdictions that list conditions of supervision, the majority of the documents included between 15-25 standard conditions.

Currently, conditions of supervision in Kansas do not meet best practices and cause inconsistencies in how agencies approach supervision. Further, to promote success, conditions of supervision should encompass three broad considerations. They should be:

- **Realistic:** This allows someone on probation or parole to meet the conditions and thus avoid unnecessary technical violations.
- **Relevant:** Conditions should be tailored to a person's criminal behavior and identified criminogenic risk and needs.
- **Research-supported:** Conditions should help maintain protective factors and disrupt criminal patterns. Programs and services the person is provided should be evidence-based programs.

Too many conditions can serve as trip wires and barriers to offender success. Further, best practice research regarding conditions of supervision that promote public safety dictate the conditions should:

- be limited in number,
- be used to address behaviors associated with risk,
- be used to foster behavior change,
- be used to support positive outcomes,
- be based on supervision goals,

- be research-supported or backed by evidence demonstrating that they promote individual success, and
- should have rehabilitative value.

To move Kansas and honor the work and effort the Commission put in to make the community supervision system more effective and increase the likelihood of people succeeding, I would like to request that the legislature pass HB 2658.

Sincerely,

[Shelly Williams](#)

Shelly Williams, Director, Standardized Conditions Subcommittee Chair  
Riley County Community Corrections

**Standardized Conditions Subcommittee Members Listed Below:**

Spence Koehn, Court Services Specialist  
Office of Judicial Administration

Tabitha Owen, County Attorney  
Smith County

Representative Stephen Owens, Chairman  
House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary of Corrections  
Kansas Department of Corrections

**Ad-Hoc Members:**

Pat Colloton, Member  
Kansas State Sentencing Commission

Honorable Stacey Donovan, District Court Judge  
7th Judicial District

Jonathan Ogletree, Chair  
Kansas Prisoner Review Board

Stephanie Springer, Chief Court Services Officer  
27th Judicial District  
Kansas Association of Court Service Officers, President

Randy Regehr, Director  
Reno County Community Corrections  
Kansas Community Corrections Association, President

Jeannie Wark, Member  
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