

## What is the AJSD?

The Ambulante Justizsozialdienst (AJSD, agency for criminal justice social work) is part of the Lower Saxony justice system. About 450 employees, who perform duties in the fields of probation service, supervision of conduct, court assistance and offender-victim mediation, are working in the AJSD.

Criminal justice social workers are involved in the social reintegration of criminal offenders, support their clients in avoiding going to prison due to unpaid fines, prepare reports on participants in the proceedings and settle disputes.

We cooperate with private agencies and network partners concerned with offender and victim support and we support voluntary work.

The AJSD is committed to the basic values of tolerance, social justice, human rights and non-violent conflict resolution.

The AJSD does prevention work for our society and contributes to internal security.



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## AJSD Supervision of Conduct



Niedersachsen. Klar.



Niedersachsen

# What is Supervision of Conduct?

Supervision of conduct is a so-called non-custodial measure of rehabilitation and prevention for offenders who are released after having served their prison sentence in full or after committal to a psychiatric hospital, a withdrawal centre or after preventive detention.

## Purpose of Supervision of Conduct

Supervision of conduct ensures aftercare for offenders whose reintegration after their release from prison or forensic commitment appears to be endangered for different reasons and who require a special degree of supervising support in the interest of rehabilitation and prevention.

As part of its mandate for monitoring and reintegration, supervision of conduct is to provide social support for offenders with a negative or unclear prognosis during their transition from detention to freedom.

## When is Supervision of Conduct carried out?

Supervision of conduct is stipulated by law

- after a prison sentence of at least two years has been served in full;
- for specific sexual offences after a prison sentence of at least one year has been served;
- if committal to a psychiatric hospital, a withdrawal centre or preventive detention has been suspended on probation; or
- if the offender had to be released for other reasons from one of the rehabilitation and prevention institutions.

The sentencing court may already order supervision of conduct in its judgement.

## Duration of Supervision of Conduct

Supervision of conduct will last no less than two and no more than five years. The competent court must decide on a shorter duration deviating from the five-year period on a case-by-case basis. Imprisonment, committal and escape will interrupt the expiration of the supervision period.

In special cases, the court may order supervision of conduct for an unlimited period.

## Supervision, Monitoring, Assistance and Care

For the duration of supervision of conduct, the court may give offenders directions for their way of living, the objective being to support the disciplinary measures' purpose of eliminating or reducing the risk of future offences.

We distinguish between:

- Directions which may relate to starting a therapy, to education, work and leisure, for example. These directions are not subject to penalty, but in special cases unlimited supervision of conduct may be ordered in the event of non-compliance.
- and
- Directions whose non-compliance constitutes a criminal offence (directions subject to penalty), e.g. directions not to contact certain persons or groups of persons, not to frequent specified



places, instructions on the place of domicile, rules of abstinence, alcohol and drug tests, directions to contact a drug counselling centre and to appear in person at specified institutions or facilities.

The directions to contact a drug counselling centre and to appear in person at specified institutions or facilities may be enforced e.g. with a warrant to appear.

Convicted persons are subject to control by a supervisory agency; the court always appoints a probation officer for the duration of the supervision period.

Probation officers are to report at regular intervals to the supervisory agency and to the court on the convicted persons' way of living and their (non-)compliance with directions as well as on any new offences that may have become known.

In Lower Saxony, probation service and supervision of conduct tasks are performed by the criminal justice social workers of the Lower Saxony AJSD.