

GENESEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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PROBATION AUTOMATION

Over the past ten years, probation supervision in New York State has been evolving and slowly but surely moving into the computer age. Although probation departments may have utilized computers for office functions before; in 2001, New York State discovered a software program specifically designed for probation caseload management.

The Access-based software, called "Prober," was developed by co-owners Gail and Terry Carpenter under the business name of QC Microsystems and was being used by several other states. New York State decided to select Prober for the statewide software program. Genesee County, along with Ulster and Tompkins were pilot counties.

The transition to monitoring probation cases and financial obligations along with producing investigations for the court using the new software was not without struggles. Each probation department in the state has their own way of completing these required tasks. Many departments, including Genesee County Probation, had to make changes to their business practices. Staff had to learn to input data correctly into the program and we all soon learned that bad data input produced poor results.

In time we grew accustomed to the software. With upgrades from QC Microsoft, the program evolved and became more functional.

In September of 2004, Automon, a company specializing in software applications for corrections and public safety agencies, announced the acquisition of QC Microsystems.

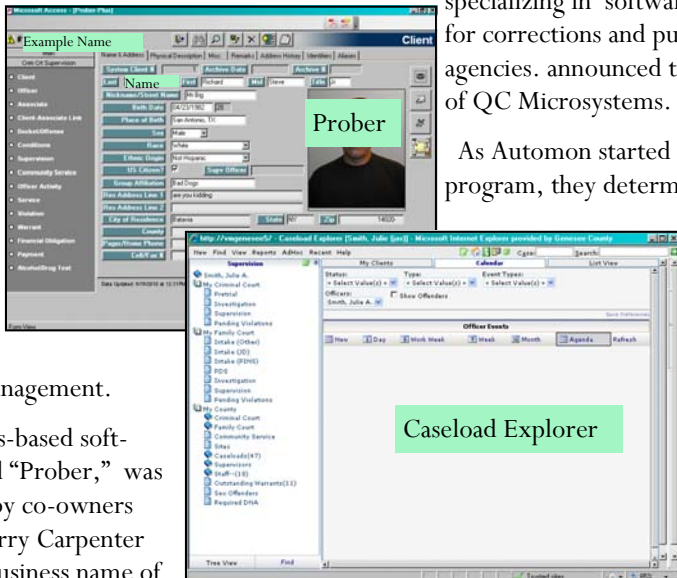
As Automon started looking at the program, they determined that their

best bet was to scrap Prober and develop a whole new web-based program and so "Caseload Explorer" was born. By using a web-based pro-

gram, the software could now be utilized by larger probation departments in the state. Moving through the program is similar to moving through an internet site.

Genesee County Probation Department has been following the testing of this software for several years. It was upgraded many times and a fully-functioning financial component was gradually developed.

In August of 2010 our staff received training in the software and our Prober database was converted to a test version of Caseload Explorer. Several issues needed to be corrected after conversion and those corrections are in progress. The site is currently being tested. After a second test conversion, we hope to go live with Caseload Explorer in early 2011.



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Mission Statement

The Mission of the Genesee County Probation Department is to enhance the safety of victims and communities through the fair and effective supervision of community-based offenders, community partnerships, and results-driven management practices.

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**Favorite Probationer
Quotes**



Sentenced to 5 years of Probation for felony DWI, a Probationer is suspected of regularly driving without a license. One day, several officers were stationed at various points around the County Building to see if he actually drove to his reporting appointment.

The Probationer was spotted leaving the office and entering the driver's side of his vehicle. He started the engine, checked his mirrors, shifted it into gear and slowly began to pull into the driving lane.

Just as the car began to move, I approached the driver's side window motioning for him to stop and asked if he had a valid driver's license. "No, but I'm not driving - he's driving," he responded, pointing to the man in the passenger seat.

Caught a bit off guard by that claim, my only response was, "Really? Then shouldn't he be sitting in the driver's seat?"

Although he continued to insist that he wasn't driving, our training and experience makes us suspect he wasn't quite telling the truth.

PO S Babcock

Defendant's response for continued marijuana use:
"Officer Dude, I'm a stoner what do you expect".

Sr PO Jeremy Barber

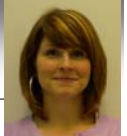


After having been convicted of a crime and sentenced to Probation for 3 years, a probationer later violated her conditions and pled guilty to that, as well. While in my office discussing the penalty phase of her Violation, she became very upset and sobbed "I feel like I'm being treated like a criminal."

PO Steve Babcock

SEARCH NETS ASSAULT RIFLE

SAMANTHA FISHER, PROBATION OFFICER



At 10:00 AM on November 10, 2010, I was able to take part in my first search as a Probation Officer with the Genesee County Probation Department. Earlier in the week an informant had called stating probationer Jane Doe had been using marijuana and prescription pain pills in large quantities since being placed on probation and we would find the evidence if we searched her home. I decided to conduct a search during my scheduled home visits that week and enlisted the help of Probation Officers Ed Engle and Traci Russo.

We entered the residence and I introduced the other officers to Jane Doe. I explained that we would be searching the residence for illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia as stated in her Conditions of Probation.

Jane woke her boyfriend and put

the dogs outside. The boyfriend the gun belonged to



also decided to wait outside.

PO Engle proceeded to search the rooms upstairs while I searched downstairs. I found no evidence downstairs so I went upstairs to assist PO Engle in his search. He was in the bedroom checking the bed. He lifted up the mattress to check underneath and located a large black assault rifle, ammunition and marijuana. The gun was loaded. PO Engle took the gun downstairs and asked Jane who

and if it was registered. Jane Doe claimed to have no knowledge of the gun. PO Engle contacted the Sheriff's Department and Deputies arrived shortly after. The boyfriend had disappeared. We continued the search outside but no other evidence was found.

Jane Doe was issued a ticket for Criminal Possession of Marijuana. The rifle and marijuana were confiscated by the Sheriff's deputies.

The assault rifle was identified as a Yugoslavian SKS Assault rifle in the possession of Jane and her boyfriend illegally. The following week Jane was arrested at the Probation Department and changed with Criminal Possession of a Weapon, 3rd, a Class D Felony.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

JULIE A. SMITH, PROBATION DIRECTOR



2010 has brought many changes to statewide probation. In September the Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA) merged into the Division of Criminal Justice Services and is now known as the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA). OPCA continues to act as the oversight agency for policy guidance and regulations.

The advent of Leandra's Law commenced on August 15, 2010. To date, cases that have been sentenced with a requirement for an ignition interlock device have been minimal. Many cases remain

pending throughout the courts of Genesee County.

Genesee County Probation employees have all completed a minimum of 21 hours of yearly training and as a result are in compliance with NYSOPCA Rules and Regulations. Likewise we have excelled at completion requirements for DNA collection.

As 2011 emerges Genesee County and New York State must continue to evaluate service delivery to citizens. In Probation actuarial risk assessments are utilized on all probationers adults and juveniles included. The risk assessment tool allows for

the deployment of resources to the individuals who have the greatest risks and needs. It is through the use of instruments such as these that the service delivery from Probation remains exceptional. As a mandated service, Probation focuses on community and victim protection and offender accountability. State aid to Probation has been reduced once again to approximately 14.3% instead of what is statutorily established at 48.5%. Genesee County Probation however continues to manage resources effectively and work within a modest budget. Genesee County Probation supervises nearly 700 individuals who otherwise would be incarcerated in local jail or prison.

MY FIRST YEAR AS A PROBATION OFFICER

JENNIFER SUTHERLAND, PROBATION OFFICER



March 29, 2010, dates the beginning of my career with the Genesee County Probation Department as a “Probation Officer.” When walking into the Probation Department on my first day of work, I was full of mixed emotions. I was both nervous and excited not knowing what to expect as I began this new journey. Previously I had worked at the Genesee County ARC. I knew this new adventure would be completely different but I also knew that I was ready for the change.

Shortly after being hired by the Department, I was sent to training in Monroe County with another new probation officer, Samantha Fisher. The training is required for all probation officers in their first year and included Peace Officer, Officer Safety and Survival and Probation Fundamentals. Since I had no prior experience in the Criminal Justice field, I was not

sure what to expect. I had worked with Samantha at the ARC so I was a bit more at ease and together we were both able to learn about our new job.

The training in Monroe County provided us with a great deal of information, laying the foundation for the work ahead of us as well as further training that was required.

Next we were sent to Firearm, ASP/Baton and Aerosol Subject Spray training. Having no experience with firearms, I knew this was going to be a very big challenge. Through this one-week training, I was able to gain a better understanding of my duties and responsibilities as a Probation Officer as well as truly understand the importance of safety while in the field. I also made a lot of memories that I can reflect back on and will carry the nickname I was given—

“Special Jen.”

With training over, I then began learning the day-to-day duties of a Probation Officer. I was introduced to my clients and started to gain knowledge of their cases. As a new officer, I was faced with challenges and questions; however, I was confident I could count on the Senior Probation Officers and Supervisors for guidance and assurance.

I have learned how to prepare a PreSentence investigation, administer Alco-Sensor and drug tests, transfer a probationer, execute a warrant and complete lots of paperwork.

With less than four months left in my probationary period, my focus is to enhance my skills in the office and in the field. I look forward to furthering my knowledge as I continue my career with the Genesee County Probation Department.

DWI Case Study - John Doe Update

When we last left our DWI case study, Mr. Doe was again suspected of drinking alcohol outside of Genesee County despite a previous Judicial Reprimand and a Violation of Probation for this same behavior which had resulted in 30 days of intermittent incarceration and re-referral for substance abuse treatment.

This Department continued to gather information that Mr. Doe was drinking out of county. We staked out Mr. Doe’s suspected destination in the other county. Mr. Doe was located outside of the residence, tested positive for alcohol and was taken into custody.

Upon release, Mr. Doe was referred back for additional relapse prevention counseling while we prepared another Violation of Probation. The defendant entered a not-guilty plea at arraignment and was released on his own recognition.

While the violation was still pending, we again traveled out of county to retrieve Mr. Doe from the same residence where he had been drinking. He was taken into custody and delivered directly to the court. The judge was not pleased and Mr. Doe was jailed on \$10,000 bail.

Mr. Doe remained incarcerated until sentencing. Our updated report to the Court included a recommendation for probation revocation and jail. At sentencing his probation was revoked and he was sentenced to 10 months of incarceration.

What became clear from this case study is that, while Probation may not always be easy, it should be viewed as an opportunity requiring some level of sincerity. If the defendant is unable or unwilling to make changes in his/her lifestyle, the opportunity for freedom can quickly be lost.

GENESEE COUNTY PROBATION’S MOST WANTED

<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>Harvey J. Horton For Violation of Probation (DWI) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>	<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>Rodney Laframboise For Violation of Probation (DWI) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>	<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>Angela K. Williamsom For Violation of Probation (PETIT LARCENY) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>	<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>Charles J. Pipes For Violation of Probation (DWI) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>	<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>James H. Rowcliffe For Violation of Probation (DWI) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>
<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>Shane D. Vandenberg For Violation of Probation (MENACING, 3RD) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>	<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>Michael W. Mairose For Violation of Probation (DWI) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>	<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>Jay Blatchley For Violation of Probation (OPERATE BY IMPAIRMENT BY DRUGS) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>	<p>WANTED By Genesee County Probation Department</p>  <p>Richard J. Downs For Violation of Probation (CR. POSSESSION CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, 7) Contact Genesee Co Probation 585-344-2550 Ext. 2257 with information</p>	

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CO.GENESEE.NY.US/DPT/
PROBATION

PROTECTING GENESEE COUNTY

Probation Trivia:



Q. Has there ever been a TV show about Probation Officers?

A. Yes! In September of 1959 a show called "Probation Officers" premiered in the United Kingdom. The show focused on the work of individual probation officers responsible for the supervision of offenders in the community!

Batavia Daily News 8/13/10

Police Blotter

BATAVIA—A probation check resulted in drug charges against an East Main Street man Friday, city police said.

Genesee County probation officers visited Donald A. Stirk's apartment and found pipe with suspected crack residue inside.

Stirk, 30, was charged with misdemeanor criminal possession of a controlled substance and is to appear Tuesday in City Court.

"Tricks or Treat" 2010

During the evening of Halloween 2010 Senior Probation Officer Michele Tucci was on duty and checking on sex offenders under Probation Supervision. During that evening numerous offenders were visited at their residence and all but one were found to be at home and in compliance with their Conditions of Probation. The one offender who was not home already had a Violation of Probation pending before the Court. In addition, another offender was later found to have been outside his residence during Trick or Treat and as a result is to appear before the Court on a Violation of Probation.



EMPLOYEE NEWS



GCPD Probation Week Picnic

Members of the Genesee County Probation Department celebrated Probation and Parole Week with a picnic after work on 7/22/10 at Godfrey's Pond in Bergen. The food was good but the stories were way better!

Merry Christmas to Chloë and Elijah, our Angel Tags for 2010!



GENESEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT IN THE NEWS

City man, girlfriend and son face pot charges

Posted: Friday, October 15, 2010 10:40 am |

By Scott DeSmit sdesmit@batavianews.com |

A search of an East Avenue apartment and yard resulted in marijuana charges against a 37-year-old man, his girlfriend and his teenage son who allegedly hid marijuana in a backpack guarded by two pit bulls, Genesee County sheriff's deputies said.

Deputy Brian Thompson said probation officers requested a search of 9 East Ave. Thursday after complaints about possible drug sales going on in the lower apartment.

The man living there, Gary L. Weese, is on probation and officers wanted to see if he was compliant with terms of his probation.

Thompson said a judge immediately signed an order and Thompson along with probation officers entered the apartment and charged Weese, his son, Gary L. Weese Jr., 16, and girlfriend, Christina M. McDonald, 25.

Weese Sr. was charged with fourth-degree criminal possession of marijuana, endangering the welfare of a child and criminal possession of a weapon.

Thompson said he possessed a switchblade knife.

His son also was charged with criminal possession of marijuana and endangering the welfare of a child. McDonald was charged with endangering and unlawful possession of marijuana.

Thompson said the endangering charge was placed because Weese Sr. and McDonald's 18-month-old son was present in the apartment.

Further charges are pending because two other children, 3 and 4, also live in the apartment but were not present during the search.

Thompson said more than two ounces of marijuana was found in a backpack the younger Weese had hidden in the backyard protected by two pit bulls.

All three were issued appearance tickets are to appear Oct. 27 in City Court.

