

Volunteers in Probation Program (VIP)

Alameda County Probation Department
2300 Fairmont Drive, San Leandro, CA 94578 · (510) 667-3117

Mission Statement

To enrich the lives of the community by partnering with the Alameda County Probation Department's staff and assist in providing mentoring opportunities, preventative and follow-up services to both adult and juvenile offenders while gaining experience, building positive relationships, and networking with various community based organizations as well as other members the criminal justice community.

About the VIP Program:

The Alameda County Probation Department's VIP program was created by Judge George Brunn in 1971. It was his belief that it took people to help people not organizations.



“In order to make a free society work, the public must have every chance to participate in the workings of major institutions. The more citizens participate, the less bureaucratic institutions are going to be.”

What Does a VIP Do?

VIPs assist Probation staff in the process of reintegrating offenders back into the community, working directly under the supervision of a Deputy Probation Officer or Institutional Supervisor.

VIPs provide individualized supervision to one or more clients. For example, they may be able to see selected clients more frequently, make additional home visits, and/or escort clients to appointments at community programs.

They work on a one-on-one basis as mentors, tutors, or role models

Within the Juvenile Facilities, a volunteer may provide counseling and religious services, or assist in educational or recreational programs.

Who Can Become a VIP?

To become a VIP you must meet the following criteria:

- Must have a genuine interest in working in the Criminal Justice System with adult and juvenile offenders.
- Must be at least **21 years of age**
- Must commit to the program for **one full year**
- Must be able to participate in the program a **minimum** of four hours per week
- Must be free of the Criminal Justice system (Parole or Probation) for at **least two years**
- Must possess a **valid** Driver's License
- College *Students* may volunteer for a minimum of one quarter or semester, but must meet all other criteria.

Each applicant must submit to:

- Fingerprinting
- Background and Reference Check
- Completing the VIP Orientation

Are you up to the challenge of becoming a Volunteer in Probation and making a difference in someone's life?

If you would like to become a Volunteer in Probation (VIP), send your name, address and telephone number to volunteersinprobation@acgov