



The “Justice” System: Sentencing and Corrections

Sentencing

In a Canadian court, **sentencing is decided by the judge** after a person is found guilty of a crime. The judge considers factors such as:

- **The Criminal Code:** It provides guidelines and rules for sentencing.
- **The Nature of the Crime:** The seriousness of the offense and its impact.
- **Aggravating and Mitigating Factors:** Things that make the crime worse (e.g., violence, criminal record) or less severe (e.g., remorse).
- **The Victim:** The harm caused to the victim and any victim impact statements.
- **The Offender's Circumstances:** Personal background, criminal record, and potential for rehabilitation.

Types of Sentencing

Fines: Money paid as a punishment for breaking the law.

Probation: A period where you're monitored by a probation officer instead of going to jail, but you must follow certain rules.

Imprisonment: Being sent to jail or prison as a punishment.

Conditional Sentences: A sentence where you don't go to jail if you follow certain rules.

Community Service: Work you do to help the community as a punishment instead of going to jail

Imprisonment Details

- Offenders with less 2 years serve in provincial institutions; more than 2 years in federal institutions
- Youth in Youth Detention Centers
- Pre-trial detention often earns enhanced credit or “time served”

Federal vs Provincial Prisons

Federal Prisons:

- Maximum security: Dangerous, escape risk.
- Medium security: Escape risk, not dangerous.
- Minimum security: Low escape risk, not dangerous.

BC Correctional Facilities:

- Open Centers: Forest management, farming programs.
- Community Centers: Work/study opportunities.

Conditional Release Programs

Parole Options:

- Temporary absence (escorted/unescorted – for a personal event)
- Day parole (work/study during the day)
- Weekend incarceration
- Full parole (remaining sentence served at home)
- Parole violations may lead to return to prison