

The Division supervises the conduct of parolees, and regularly informs the Board of Parole of their activities. The Division recommends, at its discretion, that the Board issue warrants for the retaking of parolees and issues warrants for the retaking of parolees charged with a violation of parole, upon the delegation of this power to the Director. The Division also makes such investigation as may enable the Board of Parole to determine the advisability of granting paroles to persons sentenced under the laws of Maryland whenever such prisoner shall have served in confinement one-fourth of such term or consecutive terms. The Division also supplies the judges of the Circuit Court of any county, the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, and the District Courts of the State, with presentence reports or other investigations which may include commitment for two or more years when requested by any court. The Division, upon request of the courts, may supervise the conduct of persons placed on probation or suspension of sentence and ascertains and reports to the courts whether or not the conditions of such probation or suspension of sentence are being satisfactorily complied with. The Division also performs other probationary services the court may request (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, secs. 129-131).

The Division makes such investigation and prepares such reports as may be required by the Governor concerning persons who may make application for pardon or commutation of sentence or clemency. The Division makes such investigations as may be required by the Uniform Out-of-State Parolee Supervision Act concerning parolees and probationers from other states now living in Maryland. Finally, the Division makes investigations, reports and recommendations with respect to applications for review of criminal sentences as directed by the Court of Special Appeals (Code 1957, 1966 Repl. Vol., 1970 Supp., Art. 26, secs. 130-136).

The Division makes available the services of its staff to the Circuit Courts for the respective Counties, the Criminal and the Municipal Courts of Baltimore City, the District Courts, the Board of Parole, the Governor, and the parole and probation jurisdictions of other states through the Out-of-State Parolee Supervision Act.

Recently the Division has shown tremendous growth and is now developing a diversification of its services which are geared to the needs of parolees and probationers in the community. These include an Employment Program to secure adequate jobs for worthy individuals unable to obtain their own; an Alcoholism Rehabilitation and Narcotics Program which aids those so addicted; and Family Consultations which provide counseling assistance in family and marital problems. While rendering these and other services, each Parole and Probation agent serves as a counselor and makes appropriate referrals to other agencies, public and private, to facilitate rehabilitation, bearing in mind that the protection of society and the rehabilitation of the offender are primary goals.

Federal programming and its funds have permitted this Division to make use of para-professionals who will work with parole and probation agents. The Federally-funded Community Involvement Unit includes a concentrated focus on the areas of public awareness, employment of parolees and probationers, and involvement of volunteers within the Criminal Justice System. These positions have been utilized to increase the value of the agency's services to the community. In addition, the Division has opened the State's first halfway house for the female offender; established an ex-offender Advisory Board to give the Division the benefit of the offender's point of view on the effectiveness of parole and probation services; made plans to develop a state-wide twenty-four hour "hotline" telephone counseling