

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

726A.

(a) Each county and Baltimore City may establish a community service program.

(b) Except as otherwise provided, a court may assign or order a juvenile who is charged with the commission of a delinquent act, or a criminal defendant who has not been convicted of a crime of violence, to perform community service:

(1) As a condition of probation, whether granted under § 641 or § 641A of this article or otherwise;

(2) As a condition to a suspended sentence;

(3) In lieu of payment of any fines and court costs imposed; or

(4) As a condition of:

(i) A case being placed on a stet docket; or

(ii) A juvenile being subject to a diversionary program.

(c) (1) In this subsection, the term “crime of violence” has the same meaning stated in § 643B of this article.

(2) Criminal defendants or juveniles may be assigned to work projects under the community service program only if:

(i) Assignment to a work project is made with the consent of the juvenile or defendant;

(ii) The juvenile or defendant is not compensated for the work performed; and

(iii) The defendant has not been convicted of a crime of violence.

(d) (1) Private charitable, nonprofit institutions or public and community service associations and agencies of government may provide work projects for the community service program. A participating local agency shall provide relevant information on a form containing the following information:

(i) A description of the work project;

(ii) The days of the week and the hours of each day each project is to be performed;

(iii) Special skills or physical requirements to perform the work project;

(iv) If the project is of limited duration, the date when the availability of the project expires; and

(v) Other information useful for assigning a juvenile or defendant to an appropriate work project.