

## Some *WHAT IF's* of Probation Mentoring

### What if.....

1. Mentee is a "no show"? He/she doesn't show up at the assigned location, agreed time, no warning.
  - a. Call and find out what happened. If a valid and justifiable reason, let it go and reschedule.
  - b. During the first meeting, discuss in advance of future meetings a plan between each other on how to deal with meetings that need to be aborted and consequences of "no show".
  
2. Mentee is a "no show" more than once?
  - a. Remind Mentee of what was agreed upon at the first meeting.
  - b. If a valid reason, let it go and reschedule.
  - c. Start calling Mentee in advance of meeting (night before, 30 minutes before) to get assurance that the Mentee will be at the appointed location and the agreed upon time.
  
3. Mentee cannot be reached in person or by phone after ....?
  - a. One try - try again. Text. Leave a message.
  - b. Two tries - try again. Text. Leave a message .
  - c. Three or more tries - try again, text, leave message that you will need to notify your leader that you are unable to reach him/her. Inform your leader that your Mentee is unreachable, out of touch, and not responding.
  - d. Check the county website – "Who's in Jail?" to see if Mentee was re-arrested.
  
4. Mentee brings a person to the meeting and that person is.....?
  - a. A child - Sometimes the Mentee can't help this, unless both of you change your meeting schedule. It is ok for a Mentee to want to show off their child with his/her mentor, and for a mentor to want to meet the child. You both may need to revise your meeting agenda to make it more child appropriate or ask Mentee what is appropriate discussion for this meeting. Advise Mentee that future meetings must be free of third party participations. Discuss this at the first meeting to assure future meetings are un-impacted by third parties a Mentee's child.
  - b. An adult male - same as a with a child, see above. For the time being, you may request that the third party move to a different location during your time with your Mentee or reschedule your meeting for another time.
  - c. An adult female - same as for an adult male, see b.
  - d. A spouse - There may be a time you are o.k. with this, if the Mentee wants this. But future meetings should be planned in advance with the spouse.
  - e. A parent – same as with a spouse. See d.

5. Mentee is arrested and incarcerated?
  - a. Inform your Local Program Manager. They will take it from there.
  - b. Is it o.k. for the mentor to visit and or continuing mentoring his/her Mentee while in jail? The Fresh Start 12 session mentoring program officially ends if a mentee is incarcerated. However, a mentor may visit a mentee in jail if desired.
6. Mentee uses abusive language during the mentoring session?
  - a. Request Mentee to cease and desist such behavior.
  - b. If Mentee refuses, abort meeting and reschedule if agreed.
7. Mentee comes to a session inappropriately and/or provocatively dressed?
  - a. Request Mentee to dress less provocatively at future meetings.
  - b. If Mentee refused at subsequent meeting, abort and reschedule, if agreed.
8. Mentee requests a last minute change in the location or time of the meeting?
  - a. Once? Go with it and move on.
  - b. More than once? Revisit the first meeting discussion and come up with a new agreement between the two of you.
9. Mentee requests a loan or urgent help with meeting a financial obligation?
  - a. Remind Mentee of Fresh Start policy and the initial agreements at first meeting.
  - b. Have Mentee get with their Probation Officer on resources that can help Mentee.
10. Mentee expresses hostility toward his/her Probation Officer, judge, or the judicial system?
  - a. Inform your Local Program Manager after meeting is over.
11. Mentee expresses hostility toward the mentor or others in the vicinity of the meeting?
  - a. Abort meeting and leave.
  - b. Inform your Local Program Manager.
12. Mentee requests that the Mentor provide transportation to another location or to his/ her residence?
  - a. Your call. If necessary, have Mentee communicate transportation concerns with their Probation Officer.
13. Mentee requests something to eat during the meeting session?
  - a. Your call. If you pay, consider it "renting" the space you are using for your meeting and a donation to charity.
14. Mentee asks about God or wants to join with you at your church?
  - a. Fresh Start is a faith based organization. There are no restrictions for the mentor to discuss faith matters.
  - b. The mentor has the option, and is encouraged, to invite the Mentee to a church of the mentor's choosing, to refer the Mentee to a church closer to where the Mentee lives, or to refer Mentee to a chaplain within the judicial system.

15. Mentee knowingly or willfully commits a serious violation of a judge's orders and/or terms of probation.
  - a. If known or suspected, mentor should inform Mentee of his/her duty to communicate such violation to their Probation Officer.
  - b. If after two sessions, Mentee has not taken corrective and preventive action on such matter, mentor should inform the Local Program Manager. The Local Program Manager and mentor will work out a plan of action.