

Sentence Planning

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What is Sentence Planning ?

- Sentence Planning is a structured process, explicitly designed to create optimal conditions for the resettlement and re-socialisation of convicted prisoners.
- The essential principles of the Sentence Planning **emphasize correctional treatment of prisoner**; therefore, prison authority **encourages the personal reform and social rehabilitation and help them to lead law-abiding and self-supporting lives** after their release.

A systematic sentence planning and management programme

It is an essential pre-condition for the correction of prisoners and to derive the evidence-based results.

It includes:-

- risk assessment,
- classification of prisoners by dynamic security considerations,
- needs assessment
- prisoner skill development,
- progressive placement in least-restrictive settings,
- opportunity to interact with the community before release,
- reintegration and after-care of the released prisoner into the society, and evaluation

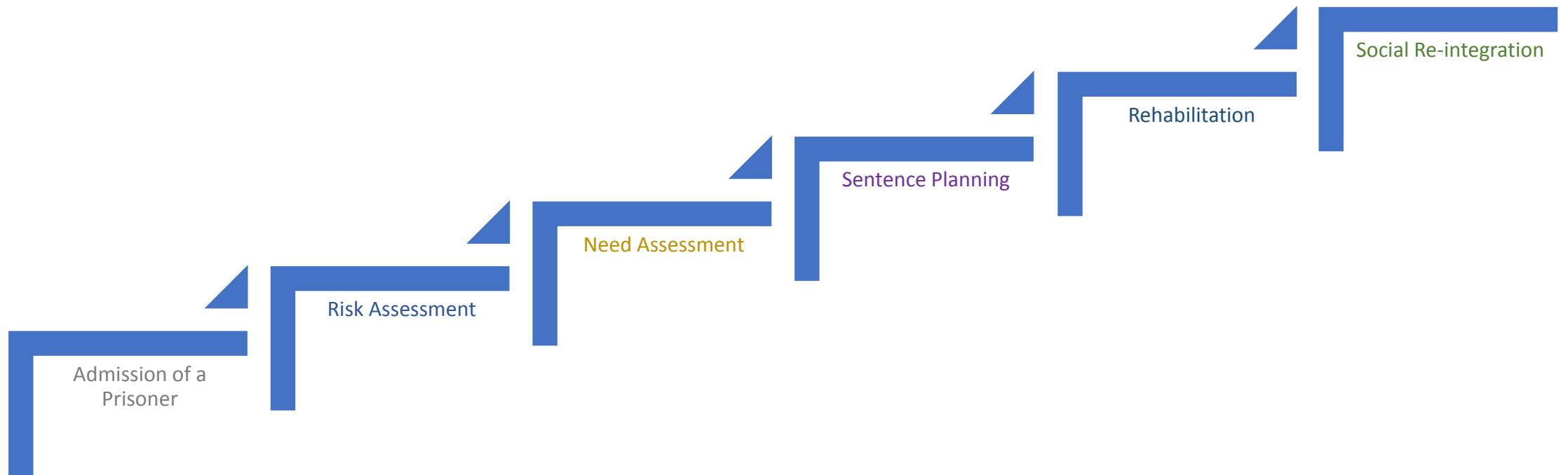
The Purpose

It is an action plan to address the identified needs and risks, therefore,

The purpose is

1. to provide a structure to prisoners' time in prison;
2. to set targets to achieve the aim of reducing possibility of getting into trouble in the future;
3. to explore certain "pathways";
4. to provide additional support in areas of identified need;
5. to help you avoid offending again in the future.

Pathway of a prisoner



First step

- As soon as a prisoner is admitted he is placed before a Classification and security Committee for initial classification and categorization.
- In order to determine the risks and needs of the prisoners and to prepare for their sentence planning and implementation process, a Classification and Security Assessment Committee, which shall include at least one female prison officer, shall be formed in a manner prescribed by the Rules,

Why classification ?

- Classification systems help minimize the potential for prison violence, escape, and Institutional misconduct and increase the opportunity to participate in and access to rehabilitation programs.
- During the past two decades, professionals in prisons worked to improve their approaches to classifying offenders according to custody, work, and programming needs.

Security Classification Assessment

- Is done on the following:-
- Institutional adjustment and Institutional Adjustment Rating(Low, Moderate and High),.
- Escape Risk and escape risk rating (Low, Moderate and High).
- Public safety risk and Public safety rating(Low, Moderate and High).

Classification Continued....

- Classification in the prison systems refers to the procedure of placing prisoners in one of several custody levels (e.g. maximum, medium and minimum) to match prisoner needs with correctional resources which include the type of facility to which they will be assigned, and the level of supervision they will receive once they are there.
- Prison classification systems are intended to differentiate among prisoners who pose different security risks and/or have various management issues.

Classification, Need and Risk Assessments

- Within 30 days after admission, the Need and Risk Assessments will be done
- If the sentence is less than 90 days, the process will be completed within 15 days after admission
- Special needs for women, adolescents, foreign nationals or people with mental or physical disabilities will be considered during the classification and risk assessment process.
- Considering the potential risk and period of imprisonment, the concerned prisoner will be transferred to a closed, semi-open or open part of the prison or any other prison.

Reassessment of Classification and Risk

- Jail Superintendent will ensure that every 12 months after the initial assessment, reassessment is done, and necessary measures to modify and implement the Sentencing Implementation Plan will be taken accordingly
- Such reassessment can also happen upon request of the concerned prisoner.
- At the time of re-formulating a Sentence Implementation Plan, apart from the preliminary issues, the following issues will also be taken into consideration:
 - Prisoners behavior during imprisonment; and
 - Participation of the prisoners in the activities mentioned in the Sentence Implementation Plan.

Sentence Planning Meeting

Within 28 days of arrival into prison, prisoners are invited to attend a Sentence Planning Meeting (or a Custody Plan for under trial prisoner) in the UK

A Sentence Planning Meeting is attended by the following members of Offender Management team:

- Prisoner
- Offender Manager (Probation Officer)
- An Offender Supervisor
- 2 x Correctional Officers (Prison Officer)

Individual Assessment

Fundamental component of the planning process involves assessing each individual prisoner.

People are diverse and the reasons why they commit crime are often complex and unique to their environment and personal capabilities.

This is why various theories of criminal behaviour exist.

Although the Standard Minimum Rules describe the prisoner as a passive participant in the process, experience indicates that sentence planning is most effective when the prisoner is actively involved in the planning process.

Sentence Planning

Need Assessment Categories	The 7 Pathways (used in the UK)
▪ Education level ▪ Work skills and experience ▪ Health status ▪ Vulnerability ▪ Psychological status ▪ Addictions ▪ Criminal and behavioural history	1. Accommodation and Support 2. Employment and Education 3. Drugs and Alcohol 4. Family and Social Support 5. Life Skills and Offending Behaviour 6. Health 7. Financial Management

Sentence plan focuses on all of these areas and set targets to meet individual needs and aim to reduce identified risks.

NEEDED RESOURCES

- Staff should possess counselling and assessment skills
- Requires a variety of skilled disciplines
- Requires a team approach
- Requires flexibility (different staff engagement at various times during the development and maintenance periods of the plan)

Case management

- Case management is a concept used to describe the activities of all staff to deal with prisoners from the time of admission to the time of release.
- The entire process focuses on identifying and mitigating risk and includes encouraging prisoners to engage in their sentence plans and change undesirable behaviours in order to live crime free in the community.

Case management continued....

- In case management, each prisoner must be regarded as an individual case and each person's time is regarded as something to be managed so the results are beneficial to both society and the prisoner.
- This being said, case management involves planning a unique arrangement of rehabilitation activities for a prisoner and then managing the prisoner's progress towards the established goals in aim of eventual release.

MEMBERS OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Prison Officers
- Supervisors
- Social Workers
- Program delivery staff (counsellors, vocational trainers)
- Medical / Health care officers
- Prison Directors

PURPOSE OF SENTENCE PLANNING

- A process of planning, supporting and preparing prisoners for release
- A blueprint of what needs to be completed from the time of admission to the time of release
- Focuses on rehabilitation activities identified in the original classification assessment

Sentence plan identifies what the prisoner needs to do throughout their sentence.

This not only includes paying their debt to society by serving a prison sentence but also identifies a rehabilitation plan to change behaviour and prepare the prisoner for release while reducing the likelihood of reoffending

Sentence Plan-continued....

- Sentence Plan reviews are held at regular intervals.
- New targets are agreed as per progress through sentence, and towards release.
- The final meeting will be a Pre-release meeting to confirm that suitable plans are in place for release with secure employment or financial support.

FRAMEWORK-International

Classification and individualization-UNSMR

67. The purposes of classification shall be:

- (a) To separate from others those prisoners who, by reason of their criminal records or bad characters, are likely to exercise a bad influence;
- (b) To divide the prisoners into classes in order to facilitate their treatment with a view to their social rehabilitation.

68. So far as possible separate institutions or separate sections of an institution shall be used for the treatment of the different classes of prisoners.

69. As soon as possible after admission and after a study of the personality of each prisoner with a sentence of suitable length, a programme of treatment shall be prepared for him in the light of the knowledge obtained about his individual needs, his capacities and dispositions.

Framework-National

MODEL PRISON MANUAL 2016 CLASSIFIES OFFENDERS (CONVICTS, UTS AND DETENUES):-

SECURITY CATEGORY 1 (RED): FUNDAMENTALISTS, NAXALITES, EXTREMISTS AND TERRORISTS;

SECURITY CATEGORY 2 (BLUE): GANGSTERS, HIRED ASSASSINS, DACOITS, SERIAL KILLERS/RAPISTS/VIOLENT ROBBERS, DRUG OFFENDERS, COMMUNAL FANATICS, AND THOSE HIGHLY PRONE TO ESCAPES/PREVIOUS ESCAPEES, ATTACKERS ON POLICE AND OTHER DANGEROUS OFFENDERS INCLUDING THOSE PRONE TO SELF HARM/POSING THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER;

SECURITY CATEGORY 3 (YELLOW): THOSE WHO DO NOT POSE ANY THREAT TO THE SOCIETY UPON RELEASE, LIKE THOSE INVOLVED IN MURDERS ON PERSONAL MOTIVES, OTHER BODILY OFFENCES, THEFT/PROPERTY OFFENCES, PROHIBITION OFFENCES, RAILWAY OFFENCES AND OTHER MINOR OFFENCES

Need for Review

While the Model Prison Manual 2016 provides elaborate and detailed guidelines, the classification recommended is only security oriented and not reintegration oriented.

There is an urgent need to review the system and to make it in accordance with the best practices in other countries and in alignment with International standards including the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of prisoners

The best practice is for prison authorities to determine the security level of a prisoner after an individual assessment of risk and need, rather than a system being determined based solely on the alleged crime committed. Tools for effective risk assessment and periodical assessment need to be introduced

Continued...

Research findings indicate:

that subjective approaches to prisoner classification often result in over-classification, which exposes individuals to harsher conditions of confinement than necessary and hinders reintegration efforts.

In addition, the lack of a consistent and clearly articulated approach to classification can be susceptible to unfair practices in assigning security level and prison placement and be open to the influence of corruption.

Therefore, an objective and evidence-based classification system with clear processes and procedures should be considered a significant factor in protecting the human rights of prisoners.

The Role of Staff

- The Role of Staff in Sentence Planning :-
- Conduct assessments (assessment)
- Develop the sentence plan (documentation)
- Engage prisoners in behavioural contracts (communication with offenders and other CRCD staff)
- Monitor compliance with the plan (monitoring)
- Motivate prisoners to engage in that plan (intervention)
- Modify the plan if required (driven by event or change in sentence)

THAT'S ALL

THANK YOU