



What is a Specific Sentence Report?

A Specific Sentence Report (SSR) is a short written report which is prepared by a Probation Officer for your next Court hearing when a specific sentence - a Community Service Order or Probation Order - is being considered. SSR's are used in Magistrate's court only - not Crown or Youth courts.

With the consent of the court a SSR may be considered suitable where the current offences do not include;

- Any offences of violence, except common assault;
Sex offending;
- Taking and driving away;
- Burglary of a dwelling house;
- Aggravated burglary; or
- Drug dealing

You will see a copy of the report when it is completed. If you feel that anything in the report is not correct, either you or your solicitor will be able to say so to the Court.

How is the SSR prepared?

You will have an interview with a Probation Officer at court or at the local Probation Office.

What the Court wants to know

A Probation Officer will talk to you about your personal circumstances. Where possible we will seek to verify the facts.

If you have any previous convictions the Probation Officer will discuss your involvement in these offences. Details of your current offence and your attitude towards the victim concerned will also be discussed with you.

The Probation Officer will talk to you about possible sentences the Court may consider. Any sentence that would place you under the supervision of the Probation Board will be discussed in detail with you. It is important to understand that the Court decides what the sentence will be.

Who sees the SSR?

On the day of Court the Magistrate will consider the SSR and a copy is made available to your solicitor and the PPS.

The Magistrate and your solicitor may ask questions or make comment on the report in Court.

If you are placed under the supervision of the Probation Board a copy of the SSR will be sent to your supervising Probation Officer.