

Court – Circular 12

4. Post Sentence Responsibilities

4.1 Social Work Staff at Court

4.1.1 Offenders should unless there are exceptional reasons to prevent it, be interviewed following sentence by social work staff at the courts. The importance of this interview is recognised in both the existing Throughcare National Standards (paragraphs 29-30) and in more detail in the draft National Standards for Social Enquiry Reports (July 1998) (paragraphs 8.5-8.6 & 8.11) and section 403 for SROs. Offenders sentenced to a period of Extended Sentence, long-term sex offenders and those subject to SRO should be afforded priority for this service.

4.1.2 The purpose of this interview is to:

- explain the sentence of the court to the offender
- establish whether there are any immediate problems to be dealt with
- inform the offender of the availability of social work services in prison and what contact to expect.

4.1.3 Court social work staff should be aware of the possibility of self-harm, in the light of the information in the pre-sentence reports, when conducting the post-sentence interview and ensure that this information is passed on to community and prison social workers. For more detailed procedures relating to the assessment of self-harm see paragraph 2.19 of the National Standards for Social Enquiry Reports and Associated Court Services.

4.2 Clerk of the Court

1.1 4.2.1 The role of the Clerk of Court are as detailed in paragraphs 31 - 32 of the National Standards for Throughcare for long term prisoners and paragraphs 375 - 377 for SROs.