

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**PROBATION DEPARTMENT**  
**DIRECTIVE**

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| No.         | 858      |
| Issued:     | 03/12/02 |
| Post Until: | 04/12/02 |

**SUBJECT: ADULT BUREAU LITERACY AND GENERAL EDUCATION  
DEVELOPMENT (GED) PILOT PROGRAM**

Penal Code (PC) section 1203.1abc authorizes that the court may require a probationer, who has not earned a high school diploma, in addition to other conditions of probation, to participate in a literacy or General Education Development (GED) pilot program. Only defendant's who have been convicted of a non-violent or non-serious offense, as defined in PC667.5(c) and PC1192.7(c), are eligible for participation in the Pilot Program. The law encourages the utilization of volunteers from the community to be engaged in providing assistance to probationers participating in the pilot program.

The Probation Department has participated in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, Public Defenders Office, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and a faith-based community partner – Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches (LAM), an organization of small church congregations, in designing a pilot program to assist probationers in obtaining the equivalent of a 12<sup>th</sup> grade education. LAM, the primary community partner, was the moving force to get the GED Initiative (AB 743) passed in the Legislature, and several churches affiliated with LAM have committed their church sites as Learning Centers where classroom instruction may occur. LAUSD will provide the classroom materials and Instructors.

**The Adult Bureau Literacy and GED Pilot Program has been operative in the Central Courts at Criminal Courts Building since February of 2001. Effective March 11, 2002, the pilot program has been expanded to the Compton Courts.**

**Adult Investigation DPOs** preparing sentencing reports or bench warrant pick-up reports, or **Supervision DPOs** preparing violation or progress reports on defendants appearing in either the Central Courts (BA \_\_\_\_\_ cases) or the Compton Courts (TA \_\_\_\_\_ cases), shall consider recommendation for a defendant's participation in the GED and/or Adult Basic Study (Literacy) Program pursuant to PC1203.1abc, if the facts of the case conclude that:

- The defendant has not attained the equivalent of a high school diploma.
- The defendant has not been convicted of a prior serious or violent felony, as defined in Penal Code sections 667.5(c) and 1192.7(c), and the defendant is not currently charged with a serious or violent felony.

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In assisting to identify potential participants, the Public Defender and District Attorney will concur that a defendant appears to be eligible for participation in the GED Pilot Program, and if the court subscribes, a referral will be forwarded to probation for purpose of evaluating the defendant's eligibility and suitability for participation in the GED Pilot Program.

The primary objective in the design of the pilot program is to offer concentrated assistance, as necessary, to further a probationer's educational level, and provide him or her with academic and social skills that will facilitate their ability to be contributing citizens of their communities. For many probationers, learning to read or earning a GED may mark the first time in their lives that they have actually attained a worthwhile milestone. Additionally, Many probationers may be unemployed because they lack minimum educational requirements. Completion of the GED Program can persuade potential employers that the person can finish what he/she starts and that the person is functioning at a higher level of maturity and responsibility.

A Probationer who desires to take part in the Pilot Program, and is ordered by the court to participant, will be afforded "incentives for success" at sentencing such as a "stay" of any jail sentence or fine. Upon "successful completion" of the program, a recommendation will be made to the court that the jail stay is made permanent and all mandatory fines be permanently stayed. Those participants who have complied with all other terms and conditions of probation will have the criminal charges reduced to a misdemeanor and dismissed pursuant to PC1203.4, in appropriate cases. A probationer's failure to make progress toward earning a GED cannot be a cause for revocation of probation.

Probationers ordered to participate in the pilot program will be offered a choice to attend either, one of the LAM Learning Centers or an existing Community Adult Education Public School. Probationers who select to attend one of the LAM Learning Centers will have the advantages of a wide range of supportive services and assistance that is provided by volunteers from LAM congregations. Additional support services and advocacy, such as tutorial assistance, life skills counseling, chemical dependency counseling, parenting counseling, housing referrals and placement, computer classes, as well as employment referrals and assistance in completing applications are offered at the faith-based sites.

Two Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) are assigned to the Adult Bureau Literacy and GED Pilot Program to provide intensive case management, support, and to advocate encouragement for participating probationers. When the court order prescribes participation in the Literacy and GED Pilot Program pursuant to PC1203.1abc, the DPOs assigned to the GED Pilot Program will arrange an appointment with each probationer and the Supervision DPO to develop individualized case management plans. The DPOs will also consult with probationers who are participating at the LAM Learning Centers, on a

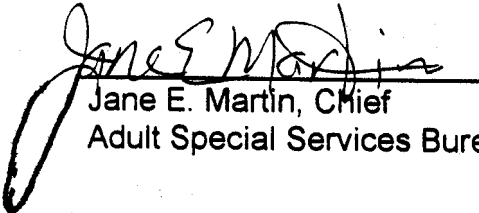
**ADULT BUREAU LITERACY AND GENERAL  
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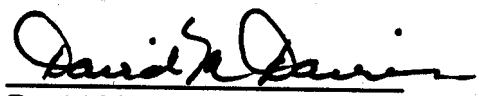
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daily basis, to reinforce the probationer's responsibility toward complying with the conditions of probation. In addition, the DPOs will endeavor to enlist the support of the probationer's family and/or significant others in order to engender further encouragement for participants.

The DPOs assigned to the Pilot Program will confer with the assigned DPO, make notations in APS, and prepare reports to the court regarding the probationer's progress in the pilot program.

Any questions regarding this Directive and the Adult Bureau Literacy and GED Pilot Program are to be directed to Charles Rogers, Adult Consultant, at (562) 940-2525, or Diana Cunningham, Adult Bureau Staff Assistant, at (562) 940-2807.

  
Jane E. Martin, Chief  
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