Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What shifts do you offer for Work Crew?**
   - Kent County currently offers shifts in four hour increments, six days a week.
   - Morning, afternoon and evening shifts available on specified days.
2. **Is the Work Crew Program supervised?**
   - Yes, a Work Crew Supervisor will be with you at all times.
3. **Is there a dress code?**
   - No opened-toe shoes or shorts are allowed. Make sure you dress for the weather; there is a chance you could be outside.
4. **What Community Service options are available?**
   - The Alternative Sentencing Department has partnered with over 50 different non-profit organizations throughout the community.
   - All participants are screened based on transportation, work schedule, physical/language limitations, charge restrictions, and other considerations.

For more information concerning the 61st District Court's Alternative Sentencing Program:

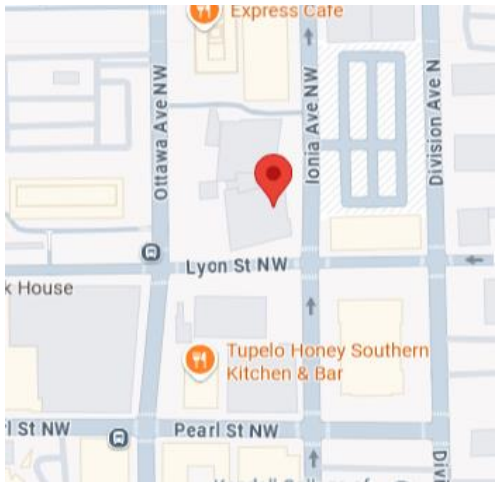
Phone: 616.632.5617

Fax: 616.632.5647

Email: CommunityService@grcourt.org

Or visit

www.GRCourt.org



61st District Court Alternative Sentencing Department

180 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste #5500
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

61st District Court Alternative Sentencing

Electronic Monitoring Work Crew Community Service Work Program

A Grand Rapids Court Program

Rev: 6/2025

Alternative Sentencing: Mission

The mission of the Alternative Sentencing Department is to provide an alternative to incarceration and to provide a practical alternative to resolving fine and cost issues; this is achieved through the use of court authorized monitoring programs and assignments to community-based improvement initiatives. Program assignments are listed on the judgment of sentence.

Work Crew:

Work Crew is a supervised alternative sentencing program that offers individuals the opportunity to fulfill court-ordered obligations outside of incarceration, while contributing to the community in a constructive and meaningful way. The primary contracts that the Kent County Work Crew fulfill are:

- Gerald R. Ford Airport property maintenance.
- Caring for public spaces and bus stops.

Community Service:

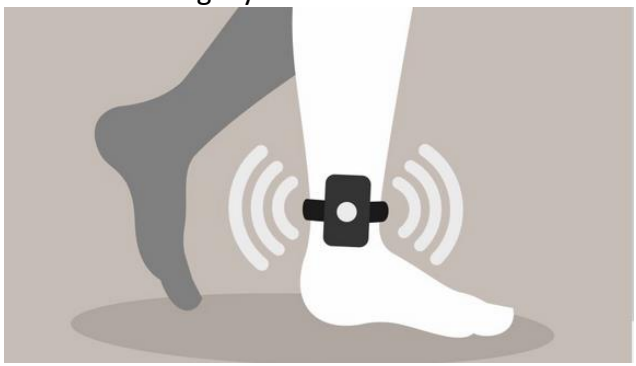
The Community Service program allows individuals to complete court-ordered service hours in the community instead of serving jail time. This program differs from Work Crew in that individuals are interviewed and placed at a non-profit organization that they are compatible with to assist in their day-to-day operations. Some agencies include but are not limited to:

- Food pantries
- Thrift stores
- Neighborhood organizations.

Work Program:

Work Program is a voluntary program for individuals who are unable to afford their monthly payments. The court will credit $20.00 for every hour worked towards an individual's fines and court costs. The Work Program follows the same guidelines and performs the same tasks as Community Service clients. Contact Alternative Sentencing for more information to see what cases are eligible and how to sign up.

Electronic Monitoring Program:

A defendant is ordered to participate in the electronic monitoring program as the result of a bond condition, judgment, or probation order. The 61st District Court uses three primary electronic monitoring devices:

- **GPS** – Attached to the ankle, this device monitors the GPS coordinates of the defendant. A defendant is typically ordered to abide by an *Exclusion Zone* which is a predetermined radius in which they are not permitted to enter.
- **SCRAM** (*Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring*) – Attached to the ankle, this unit monitors alcohol consumption by measuring the amount of alcohol that migrates through the defendant's skin.
- **Soberlink** – This unit is a portable, cell phone sized PBT machine. The court establishes a testing schedule and the defendant must provide breath samples as directed that detect traces of any alcohol consumption. The unit is also equipped with a camera to help ensure the integrity of the test.