

Our Guiding Principles

In addition to criminal jurisdiction, the public prosecution offices and the law enforcement institutions, the AJSD is the fourth pillar of the administration of criminal justice in Lower Saxony.

About 450 employees, who perform duties in the fields of probation service, supervision of conduct and court assistance, are working in the AJSD. Moreover, AJSD personnel are employed in the 11 victim assistance offices of the Foundation for Victim Assistance of Lower Saxony.

Criminal justice social workers are, among other things, involved in the social reintegration of criminal offenders, prepare decision-making aids for the criminal justice system and use mediation procedures. They support their clients in avoiding the enforcement of default imprisonment and accompany victims of criminal offences and their next of kin.

The AJSD is committed to the basic values of tolerance, social justice, human rights and non-violent conflict resolution. This leads to a respectful attitude and a resource and solution-oriented working style.

A high level of professional expertise is a prerequisite for our responsible work within the Lower Saxony justice system. We ensure this expertise by continually refreshing our knowledge, updating and further developing our quality standards and by implementing professional quality and risk management.

We do prevention work for our society and contribute to internal security.

We cooperate with private agencies and network partners concerned with offender and victim support and we support voluntary work.

District of Aurich
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleAurich
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Braunschweig
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleBraunschweig
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Bückeburg
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleBueeckeburg
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Göttingen
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleGoettingen
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Lüneburg
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleLueneburg
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Hanover
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleHannover
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Hildesheim
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleHildesheim
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Oldenburg
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleOldenburg
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

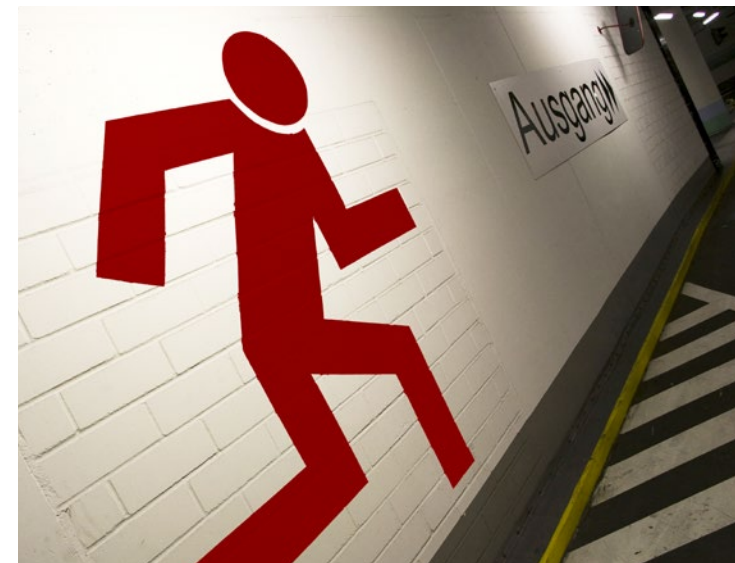
District of Osnabrück
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleOsnabrueck
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Stade
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleStade
@justiz.niedersachsen.de

District of Verden
AJSD-BezirkspoststelleVerden
@justiz.niedersachsen.de



Ambulanter Justizsozialdienst Niedersachsen
beim Oberlandesgericht Oldenburg



Published by:
Ambulanter Justizsozialdienst Niedersachsen
beim Oberlandesgericht Oldenburg
Mühlenstraße 5
26122 Oldenburg

Phone + 49 (0)441 2201220
E-mail adol-poststelle@justiz.niedersachsen.de

For further information, please visit our website:
www.ajsd.niedersachsen.de

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Niedersachsen. Klar.



Niedersachsen

Being on the Right Track Together



The name “Ambulanter Justizsozialdienst Niedersachsen” (AJSD, agency for criminal justice social work in Lower Saxony) already identifies its significant elements: The agency provides social services in the fields of probation service, supervision of conduct, court assistance and offender-victim mediation and is part of the Lower Saxony justice system.

The executive department at the Oldenburg Higher Regional Court (Oberlandesgericht) provides guidance and functional control of the AJSD in cooperation with 11 district offices in Lower Saxony.

In addition to its main specialist areas, like risk management, the supervision of sexual offenders, the probation service for youths and young adults and offender-victim mediation, it also has a central role in preparing concepts for, conducting and further developing voluntary work.

For the AJSD, voluntary work is a supporting element in the care of its clients. This work is a crucial link to society. Voluntary work does not replace professional social work, but makes use of people’s personal skills, thus expanding the AJSD’s range of services.

Our Tasks

Probation Service

Probation service is a form of assistance for offenders, where the government shares in the responsibility for reintegrating people who have committed crimes. Probation service tasks are performed on a full-time or voluntary basis.

These tasks include, on the one hand, providing advice and assistance for offenders in all questions and problems concerning their rehabilitation and, on the other hand, supervising and monitoring the instructions and conditions imposed by the court.

Probation Service for Youths and Young Adults

Youths and young adults who are offenders are a special target group for the probation service.

In addition to the regulations of the general criminal law, the regulations of the Youth Courts Law, which focuses on the pedagogical objective, apply particularly in this context.

Supervision of Conduct

Supervision of conduct is a measure of rehabilitation and prevention, which is implemented by law and ordered by the court when offenders are released from prison or forensic commitment. For certain criminal offences, the court may order supervision of conduct in addition to a prison sentence exceeding six months if there is a risk that the offender will commit other offences.

Court Assistance Agency

The court assistance agency collects data on the personality, life situation and social environment of suspects and convicted persons as part of judicial or public prosecutor’s proceedings.

The agency thus makes a valuable contribution to appropriate decisions in criminal and enforcement proceedings. Additional fields of work include the preparation of victims’ reports as well as placing offenders in, and supervising, community work, particularly if default imprisonment is to be avoided (if a fine cannot be paid).

Offender-Victim Mediation

Offender-victim mediation is a procedure to settle conflicts out of court and make restitution.

It is based on the idea of handling conflicts connected with criminal offences directly with the parties involved. Both offenders and victims are given the opportunity to resolve conflicts and compensate for damage.