

## What is the AJSD?

The Ambulante Justizsozialdienst (AJSD, agency for criminal justice social work) is part of the Lower Saxony justice system. About 450 employees, who perform duties in the fields of probation service, supervision of conduct, court assistance and offender-victim mediation, are working in the AJSD.

Criminal justice social workers are involved in the social reintegration of criminal offenders, support their clients in avoiding going to prison due to unpaid fines, prepare reports on participants in the proceedings and settle disputes.

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

The AJSD is committed to the basic values of tolerance, social justice, human rights and non-violent conflict resolution.

The AJSD does prevention work for our society and contributes to internal security.



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As of November 2020

## Court Assistance Agency in the AJSD



Niedersachsen. Klar.



Niedersachsen



## What is the Court Assistance Agency?

At any stage of the criminal proceedings, the public prosecutor's offices and the courts may task different agencies in order to obtain decision-making aids for their overall assessment of clients. The court assistance agency reports on the personal circumstances and the life situation of adult accused persons, defendants or convicted persons, and victims.

### Investigation and Reporting in Criminal Proceedings

Within the context of criminal proceedings, criminal law stipulates that the life circumstances of the person concerned are to be taken into account, in particular for sentencing, but also for decisions on the enforcement of the sentence. Public prosecutor's offices and courts may task the court assistance agency with preparing reports and commenting on somebody's personal situation. A one-to-one conversation should therefore take place. The clients' cooperation with the court assistance agency is voluntary.

### Finding and Supervising Community Work

If convicted persons are unable to pay a fine imposed on them, default imprisonment may be avoided by performing community work.

Community work may also be imposed as a condition of probation or as a condition if proceedings are discontinued. In these cases, too, the court assistance agency will find community work, if tasked accordingly, and unless a probation officer has been appointed.

The court assistance agency will select a suitable work place. Possible work places can be found at municipal, church or other charitable organisations.

### Victim's Report

This report provides important information to the public prosecutor's office and the court regarding the impact of a criminal offence on the victim. In a one-to-one conversation, victims have the opportunity to describe the health-related, mental and material consequences they have suffered from the criminal offence.

This information allows public prosecutors and judges to appropriately consider the victims' concerns in the criminal proceedings. The strain on the injured person arising from the proceedings should be kept to a minimum.

Furthermore, the court assistance agency offers victims information e.g. on additional support and advice services.