Fines

An offender is required to pay a specified sum of money to the authorities. The actual amount may be set by the presiding magistrate or judge but (usually) must be within limits specified by law. The courts may allow a fine to be paid in instalments and may seek an attachment of earnings, where the fine is deducted from the offender's income at source. Non payment of fines may result in recovery action (e.g. seizure of property) or further punishment (e.g. imprisonment).

Probation

An offender is released into the community with certain conditions attached to his continued liberty. Probation requires regular meetings with probation officer who supervises and guides the offender. In addition, the offender may be required to reside at a particular address, attend education, employment or other rehabilitory activities or submit to regular drugs testing. Probation is typically given with a suspended prison sentence so non-compliance with a probation order generally results in custody.

Reparation and restitution

An offender is released into the community on the condition that they complete a specified amount of work that is of benefit to their victims (restitution) or the wider community (reparation). 'Community punishment' (previously called 'community service') is an example of reparation. Offenders typically complete a specified number of hours of manual public-service work (e.g. maintaining public property). Restitution is more frequently used in the United States and could involve both work for and financial payments to the offender's victims.