

Probation Counselor Interview Questions

1. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.

2. Share an effective method you have used to interview probationers and/or parolees and evaluated their progress.

3. What is the key to success when communicating with the public.

4. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)

5. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.

6. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?

7. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.

8. In your experience, what is the key to ensuring your company was compliant with all laws, regulations and standards that were applicable to your area of responsibility?

9. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?

10. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?

11. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.

12. What have you found to be the best way to monitor the performance of your work and/or the work of others? Share a time when you had to take corrective action.

13. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was

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the impact?

14. Please share an experience in which you presented to a group. What was the situation and how did it go?

15. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?

16. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

17. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.

18. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?

19. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)

20. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)

21. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?

22. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.

23. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?

24. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.

25. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)

26. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to

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determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)

27. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?

28. Provide an experience in which your ability to actively find ways to help people improved your company or your own work ethic.

29. Describe a time when you successfully persuaded another person to change his/her way of thinking or behavior.

30. Provide an experience in which you administered drug and alcohol tests.

31. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?

32. Share an effective method you have used to discuss with offenders how drug, alcohol, or anger may have played roles in criminal behavior.

33. What is the state of your case folders? What is one thing you would like to improve?

34. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.

35. Provide an experience in which you successfully investigated an alleged parole violation. What methods led to your success?

36. Describe an experience in which you conducted a prehearing and presentencing investigation which effectively prepared you to testify in court.

37. Share an experience in which your ability to consider the costs or benefits of a potential action helped you choose the most appropriate action.

38. Share an experience in which you successfully arranged for treatment services for offenders.

39. What factors do you consider when writing reports describing offenders' progress?

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40. Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)

41. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)

42. Describe an experience in which you developed a liaison and/or network with others which helped you to plan for helping an offender with life adjustments.

43. Provide an experience in which you successfully supervised people on community-based sentences. What methods did you find most effective?

44. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?

45. What factors do you consider when recommending penitentiary for initial placement of offenders?

46. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.

47. How do you assess the suitability of penitentiary inmates for release? Share an experience.

48. Provide an effective method you have used to gather information about offenders' backgrounds.

49. Share an experience in which you effectively arranged postrelease services.

50. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?

51. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.

52. Tell me about an effective rehabilitation program you developed.

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53. Provide an experience in which you helped decide if a case should go before a court.

54. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?

55. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, and implement a solution. How did the solution benefit your employer?

56. Share an experience in which you effectively identified and approved work placements for offenders with community service sentences.

57. Describe an experience in which your ability to work well with others and reconcile differences helped your company or employer. (Make sure the candidate knows how to negotiate.)

58. Describe a packet you developed with information about agencies, organizations, and programs which was useful for inmates or offenders.

59. Describe a time when you successfully provided personal assistance to a coworker or patron.

60. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.

61. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?

62. Please share with me an example of how you helped coach or mentor someone. What improvements did you see in the person's knowledge or skills?

63. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?

64. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.

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65. Describe an experience in which you identified the educational needs of your students and successfully developed a way to teach/train them.

66. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good team? (Look for how they build mutual trust, respect, and cooperation.)

67. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.

68. Provide an example of when you set expectations and monitored the performance of subordinates. What guidance and direction did you find most effective?