

# TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF VIRGINIA



ROBERT P. DOHERTY, JR., JUDGE  
ROANOKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
305 EAST MAIN STREET  
SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153  
(540) 387-6293  
(540) 387-6278 FAX

CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF SALEM

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## **ROANOKE COUNTY VOLUNTEER WORK PROGRAM**

Roanoke County has a volunteer work program whereby a criminal defendant ordered to serve time in jail can, in certain instances, work off his jail sentence. Not all individuals will be found eligible for this program. Eight hours of work will satisfy two days of a misdemeanor jail sentence. Any of the judges of the circuit, general district or juvenile and domestic relations district courts can explain the program to you in more detail, as can the Commonwealth's Attorney in Roanoke County. In the City of Salem criminal defendants can also work off their jail sentences in the Roanoke County volunteer work program.

An example of a typical case is where the defendant is sentenced to ten days in jail and the court decided to allow the defendant to work off the jail time. That defendant would be instructed to report to jail at 6:00 P.M. on a date certain, say six weeks off. The defendant would report to Deputy Marvin Lloyd at 7:00 A.M. on a specific date to sign up. He would then be assigned to work details run by one of the various Roanoke County departments. It is not community service work. The sheriff or a probation officer does not supervise the defendant. The defendant would be supervised by whoever is regularly in charge of that particular Roanoke County work detail. When the date and time comes for the defendant to report to jail, he must do so. If he has completed his jail sentence in full through the work program, he will be told that his jail sentence is completed and he will be released. If he has only partially completed it, then he will be taken into custody to serve whatever portion of his jail sentence he has not worked off.

The purpose of this program is to save Roanoke County the cost of jailing prisoners and to get the benefit of their volunteer work. After a while you should be able to look at a particular defendant, the type of offense and the danger posed to the community, and make an educated guess whether your client might qualify for volunteer work in lieu of some or all of his jail sentence. You might even be able to include this in some of your plea agreements; however, the judge has the final say so as to whether someone can be placed in this program.