



Kelly Leyden

My plan was not to work in the Criminal Justice field. I had gone to college for a totally unrelated degree, but as life has its ways, my career path had changed. Working for the State of South Dakota, and eventually Court Services, was merely a happenstance; one unexpected opportunity after another. I have been employed as a Court Services Officer for over four years now, and I wouldn't have it any other way. I am able to meaningfully help those who are struggling in life to be successful and, hopefully, to never return to the justice system again. There is satisfaction in knowing that I can do a small part to keep our community safe. I've met many great individuals around the community and with different organizations, all working for the same goal.

Being a probation officer allows you to really work within your own interests. I work specifically with sex offenders, which comes with its own unique set of challenges and rewards. There are other areas as well, such as the Treatment Courts and standard probation. The best part of working for Court Services is that it allows me to have more time with my family. It truly is a great work/life balance.

**COURT SERVICES
OFFICER**