

Reframe The Behaviour

If you think offenders are misbehaving on purpose. Reframe it. See their behaviour for what it really is...

Negative Behaviour	Misinterpretation- “Won’t”	Accurate Interpretation – “Can’t”
Non-compliance Failure to appear Missing probation meetings	-- Wilful misconduct -- Attention seeking -- Stubborn	-- Difficulty translating verbal directions into actions -- Doesn’t understand
Repeatedly making the same mistakes Recidivistic actions Correction does not work	-- Wilful misconduct -- Manipulative	-- Cannot link cause to effect -- Cannot see similarities -- Can’t remember
Often late Late for meetings Late for community service work	-- Lazy, slow -- Poorly parented -- Wilful misconduct	-- Cannot understand the abstract concept of time -- Can’t remember
Repetitive behaviours Hitching and wiggling around in court Playing with loose change or clicking a pen	-- Seeking attention -- Bothering others -- Wilful misconduct	-- Neurologically-based need to learn by doing -- Brain damage=behaviour
Poor social judgment Inappropriate touching Overly friendly with strangers	-- Poorly parented -- Wilful misconduct -- Abused child	-- Misinterpret social cues from peers -- Does not know what to do
Overly physical Inappropriate touching Gets too close to others Abusive, especially if intoxicated	-- Wilful misconduct -- Deviancy	-- Over or under-sensitive to touch -- Cannot relate social cues to boundaries
Is unable to act independently Can’t perform community service effectively Needs to be led all the time	-- Wilful misconduct -- Passive aggression	-- Chronic health problems -- Cannot translate verbal directions into action -- Can’t remember

Source: **Teaching Students with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects, A Resource Guide for Teachers**, Appendix 3, 1996 (adapted by Mary Cunningham for Justice CD-ROM)