



Wellness within Reach

Court Diversion Program

The majority of people living with mental health conditions rarely come into contact with the criminal justice system although, during times of crisis, these circumstances may occur.

The Court Support & Diversion Program is a partnership between the criminal justice and the mental health systems. Its purpose is to provide advocacy and support as an alternative to criminal sanctions to people charged with a minor offence and who have a serious mental illness and/or a developmental delay. Anyone can initiate a referral to the Court Diversion Program but usually these are initiated by the Duty Counsel, the prosecutor and the police. Participation in this program is voluntary. Being accepted to the Court Diversion Program is a positive step forward.

Our goal is to promote access to appropriate and effective short and long term mental health services that will support you in your recovery, and towards successful community reintegration.

What You Can Expect:

- You will meet with your Court Diversion Worker to complete an evaluation and develop a diversion plan. A diversion plan is one which permits the court to consider how your mental health may have been an important factor in the criminal activities you engaged in. It also outlines the ways in which you intend to repair damages committed and prevent future relapses.
- Your diversion plan will be submitted to the Crown Attorney for review and approval.
- Your charges will be stayed if the Crown accepts your plan.
- The Crown may proceed with the original charges if your plan is not accepted or if you do not follow through with your plan.

As part of your Court Diversion plan, you may be required to:

- Consult with a psychiatrist or other health professionals with expertise in mental health and developmental delays.
- Be admitted to hospital for further evaluation or treatment.
- Keep regular appointments with your mental health worker.
- Take your medication as prescribed.
- Provide compensation to the victim(s) or the community. This could be in the form of monetary compensation or volunteer work.

For a successful experience, your role will be to maintain regular appointments with your mental health worker and follow your treatment plan which may include taking medications as prescribed.

Your Court Diversion Worker can assist you and your family:

- Understand the various legal terms and court process.
- Explain to the court how your health disposition has played a part in your current legal situation.
- Access services including mental health and/or addictions treatment.
- Navigate through the legal system more quickly.



Learn More About How We Can Help
613-732-8770 or 1-800-991-7711

Mental Health Crisis Line - 24/7
1-866-996-0991

Recovery is a process, a way of life, an attitude, and a way of approaching the day's challenges. It is not a perfectly linear process. At times, our course is erratic and we falter, slide back, regroup and start again. The need is to meet the challenge of the disability and to re-establish a new and valued sense of integrity and purpose within and beyond the limits of the disability; the aspiration is to live, work, and love in a community in which one makes a significant contribution.

(Recovery: The Lived Experience of Rehabilitation, p.15, Patricia Deegan, 1988)