

## Ramsey County Mental Health Court Referral Procedure (**Court Personnel**)

### ❖ **WHAT IS THE RCMHC?**

- The Ramsey County Mental Health Court (RCMHC) is a voluntary, pre-adjudication and post-sentence program. The RCMHC became operational in May 2005 and was created when it became increasingly clear that persons with mental illness and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders were in need of more specialized and individualized treatment. By partnering with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the RCMHC team includes community human services case managers who can link participants to available community mental and chemical health services. RCMHC provides people whose criminal acts are driven by mental illness an opportunity to go into court-supervised treatment rather than the traditional court route. For more information, go to: [MN 2nd District Mental Health Program](#).

### ❖ **QUESTIONS RE: ELIGIBILITY AND REFERRAL PROCESS?**

- Contact Brandi Stavlo, RCMHC Program Coordinator with defendant's name and case file number(s). Telephone (651) 266-9256 or email [brandi.stavlo@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:brandi.stavlo@courts.state.mn.us).

### ❖ **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- To be eligible for RCMHC, an individual must not have a current charge or prior conviction that appears on the following list. **If an individual has current charges or prior convictions for the starred offenses above, a qualification determination will be made on a case by case basis.**
  - ✓ Aggravated Robbery I and II
  - ✓ Arson I and II
  - ✓ Assault I, II, III, IV\*, V\*
  - ✓ Burglary I, II, III\*
  - ✓ Crime Committed to Benefit a Gang
  - ✓ Criminal Sexual Conduct
  - ✓ Criminal Vehicular Homicide
  - ✓ Criminal Vehicular Injury\*
  - ✓ Domestic Assault\*
  - ✓ Drive by Shooting
  - ✓ Failure to Register as a Sex Offender
  - ✓ Fugitive from Justice
  - ✓ Homicide
  - ✓ Kidnapping/False Imprisonment
  - ✓ Malicious Punishment of a Child
  - ✓ Possession of Pictures of Minors
  - ✓ Possession/Reckless Use of Weapons
  - ✓ Sale/Intent/Distribution of Drugs I and II
  - ✓ Stalking/Harassment
  - ✓ Terroristic Threats\*
  - ✓ Violation of Order for Protection\*
  - ✓ Witness Tampering

### ❖ **HOW TO REFER A CLIENT TO RCMHC:**

#### **STEP 1: CONTACT PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**

Contact the RCMHC Program Coordinator with defendant's name and case file number(s). The entire RCMHC team must agree to the RCMHC referral. If the probation officer has clinical information that would be helpful for the referral process please fax them to the Program Coordinator before defendant's first appearance in RCMHC.

- Brandi Stavlo, RCMHC Program Coordinator:  
Telephone: (651) 266-9256  
Fax: (651) 767-8940  
Email: [brandi.stavlo@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:brandi.stavlo@courts.state.mn.us)

#### **STEP 2: OBSERVATION COURT HEARING IS SCHEDULED:**

The defendant must be scheduled for a RCMHC court hearing to observe the court and begin the referral process.

**STEP 3: RCMHC HEARING:**

At the RCMHC court hearing date, the defendant will observe the court proceeding. If the defendant wants to continue the RCMHC referral process after observing court, he/she will be required to:

- Mental Health Intake Assessment:  
Schedule a mental health intake assessment with the RCMHC case manager to determine appropriateness for the program.

**STEP 4: ACCEPTANCE/DENIAL TO RCMHC:**

- Acceptance:  
If the defendant is found eligible for RCMHC, a determined length of time in the program is agreed upon with Probation and the RCMHC team (minimum one year). The RCMHC Judge will amend MNCIS to note RCMHC conditions.
- Denial:  
If the defendant does not meet eligibility, the defendant will continue with only Adult Probation.

**STEP 6: PROBATION / RCMHC COLLABORATION:**

- Referral Period:  
During the RCMHC referral period, please note that Probation should still be meeting with the client as they normally would do with a Probation client as they are the only supervising agent of the defendant. The RCMHC referral process must remain separate until the defendant is determined eligible and accepted to the RCMHC program. RCMHC case management will be corresponding with Probation to give updates on the referral process. During the referral process, if Probation should have any questions regarding treatment and compliance to the referral process, please contact RCMHC case management, Deb Strasser, at 651-266-9256. In addition, we would appreciate any information Probation may have regarding new cases or if Probation will be issuing violations, etc. on this client to ensure both systems are communicating fully.
- Accepted to RCMHC:  
Defendants are supervised by Adult Probation and RCMHC during his or her participation in the program. RCMHC case management will be corresponding with Probation on the case from acceptance on forward.