

Criminal Mental Health Court Partners

State of Minnesota

- Fourth Judicial District Court
- Department of Human Services

Hennepin County

- Board of Commissioners
- Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Human Services and Public Health Department
- Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Sheriff's Office
- Hennepin County Medical Center

City of Minneapolis

- Attorney's Office
- Police Department

Community

- National Alliance on Mental Illness - MN
- Suburban Hennepin County Prosecutors Association

Contact Information

Judge Carolina Lamas
Fourth Judicial District Court
Phone: 612-543-1791

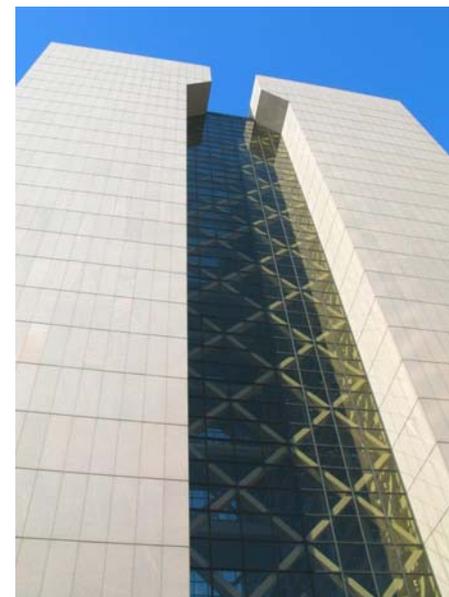
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(06/2018)



Hennepin County Criminal Mental Health Court

A court-supervised treatment program for defendants who have a mental illness.



Hennepin County Government Center
300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN

[http://www.mncourts.gov/
Find-Courts/Hennepin.aspx](http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin.aspx)

What is Criminal Mental Health Court?

Hennepin County Criminal Mental Health Court is a problem solving court that serves defendants charged with a criminal offense who are struggling with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. It is a 12-18 month voluntary program that promotes stability and sobriety through the cooperation and collaboration of the courts, mental health system, and corrections. This comprehensive care model allows for a rapid response to unmet needs of participants by removing barriers and providing access to mental health services. The program couples judicial reviews with intensive probation supervision including input from a multi-disciplinary team of professionals led by the judge.

Who is Eligible?

Eligibility is evaluated by the Criminal Mental Health Court Team on a case-by-case basis.

General requirements include:

- Charged in Hennepin County with a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor offense
- Hennepin or Ramsey County resident
- Diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness, traumatic brain injury, or intellectual development disorder; and have a significant impairment in functioning.

Cost

There is no cost for participation. However, participants may be required to pay a fine and/or restitution. In addition, participants who are placed on probation are required to pay a Correctional Service Fee.

Entry & Referral Process

1. The case is referred to Criminal Mental Health Court upon agreement of the parties. The court is a universal consent court - all parties must agree to the referral.
2. The defendant is scheduled for a Criminal Mental Health Court date. During the court date, they will meet briefly with a social worker to set up a screening appointment and appear in front of the judge to receive their next Mental Health Court date.
2. At the screening appointment, the Court Screener will complete an assessment, which includes interviewing the defendant, speaking with family members and/or case managers, and reviewing relevant information systems to determine if the defendant is receiving or has received social services or has a prior criminal record.
3. At the next Criminal Mental Health Court date, the Court Screener advises the judge and attorneys as to whether the defendant meets Criminal Mental Health Court criteria and makes a recommendation regarding acceptance.
4. An accepted defendant is placed on conditional release or probation by the judge and is assigned to a supervising probation officer.
5. The defendant then appears for periodic judicial reviews to monitor compliance. For cases not already adjudicated, there will be a disposition. The disposition of a case depends on the nature of the case and the performance of the defendant.

Mental Health Court Goals

- Reduce criminal recidivism
- Increase compliance with court ordered conditions
- Improve life stability
- Reduce hospitalizations and emergency room visits
- Reduce jail time
- Facilitate access to services
- Increase participant satisfaction with court process

Mental Health Court Services

- One-on-one judicial reviews
- Intensive probation supervision
- Substance abuse, mental health, family and other counseling
- Random drug and alcohol testing
- Medication monitoring
- Access and connection to case management
- Stop-gap psychiatrist appointments
- Stop-gap individual therapy
- Employment and housing assistance

Graduation

Upon completion of the Criminal Mental Health Court program, participants are given a certificate of completion. Probationers may be placed on administrative probation and subject to minimal requirements.

Location

Hennepin County Criminal Mental Health Court is held in Courtroom 857 at the Hennepin County Government Center. Court meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for felony level cases and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor level cases.