

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN OF CALIFORNIA

REENTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the San Francisco Reentry Court (SFRC) is to combine court programs with treatment and community-based resources to create wrap-around services that promote the adoption of prosocial behaviors and target the reduction of recidivism in the community.

GOALS

1. Reduce substance abuse dependency and related criminal activity
2. Enhance community safety
3. Provide resources and support to ease the transition from incarceration to reentry
4. Reward prosocial behavior while holding participants accountable for negative behavior
5. Reduce recidivism

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The San Francisco Reentry Court is a comprehensive post-conviction program of the U.S. District Court. This collaborative approach combines the efforts of the Court, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the U.S. Probation Office, treatment providers, and community stakeholders. This voluntary program involves regular court appearances, community-based supervision, cognitive behavioral therapy, substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, and pro-social community activities.

The purpose of SFRC is to assist participants in successfully reentering the community. The participants will have access to community-based resources, such as job training and placement, education, treatment, counseling, and mentorship. They will report frequently to the probation officer, who will match client needs with available resources. They will also appear twice monthly before a Federal Judge, and the Reentry Court Team, to discuss progress toward meeting their goals.

The program is designed to span at least one year, based on each participant's progress. Each participant must be willing to take part in all program components. Participants who successfully complete the SFRC, will be eligible for up to one year off of their remaining term of post-conviction supervision.

## REENTRY COURT TEAM

The Honorable Laurel Beeler

United States Magistrate Judge

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

Candis Mitchell

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY OFFICE

Jeffrey Borenstein

Maya Karwande

UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICE

Kevin Maynor

Reentry Court Liaison

Michael Primeau

Program Supervisor

U.S. DISTRICT COURT

Wyatt Lim-Tepper

Reentry Court Coordinator

TREATMENT PROVIDER

Michael Red

Treatment Facilitator

## PROGRAM PARTNERS

### ➤ Federal Judges

The Judge will provide encouragement, guidance and support for the participants, recognizing their accomplishments and celebrating their victories. At the same time, the Judge will hold participants accountable in the event they fail to comply with the terms of the program.

### ➤ Assistant United States Attorneys

The Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) is a federal prosecutor designated to serve as a liaison from the U.S. Attorney's Office to the Re-Entry Team. The AUSA is committed to the success of each re-entry court participant. That commitment includes:

1. Encouraging and supporting the successes and accomplishments of each participant;
2. Giving constructive input on overcoming hurdles or difficulties; and
3. Holding each participant accountable if he falls below what is expected of a participant in the program.

### ➤ Assistant Federal Public Defenders

Although an Assistant Federal Public Defender (AFPD) generally represents clients brought to federal court for violations of supervised release or new criminal conduct, as a member of the Re-Entry Team, the AFPD is not intended to be the defense attorney for each participant. More specifically, participants are not being represented during the Re-Entry Team meetings by the AFPD.

➤ US Probation Officers

Participants will be thoroughly assessed by the Reentry Court Team to insure suitability for the program. Upon entrance to the program, participants will begin attending programming aimed at removing barriers to employment, education, housing, and substance abuse and mental health treatment. The probation officer will work with the participant to identify problems that they are facing and propose referrals and resources.

➤ Treatment Providers

The Treatment Provider will work with the participant to help them identify triggers and appropriate responses to those triggers. Additionally, the treatment provider will work closely with the Re-Entry Team to develop a relapse prevention program designed to address client specific needs.

## ELIGIBILITY

Referrals: The U.S. Probation Office may receive referrals from other probation officers, or members of The Reentry Court Team.

Although it is preferred that a reentry court cohort of participants begin programming simultaneously, the Reentry Court Team may elect to accept new participants at any time based on the needs of the court and availability of space for new participants. The ideal number of participants is between eight to twelve.

### Screening

The U.S. Probation Office will oversee the screening process by use of a variety of assessments including but not limited to the Post-Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA), Prognostic Risk Factors Checklist, and mental health/substance abuse assessments by a treatment provider. The Reentry Court Probation Officer will make a recommendation to the Reentry Court Team for acceptance based on the results of the screen process. The Reentry Court Team will discuss the appropriateness of the potential participant and the Reentry Court Judge will make the final determination for acceptance.

### Criteria

- Post-Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA) score of Moderate or High.
- A minimum of 24 months of remaining supervision
- Willingness to participate and abide by program rules
- Complete necessary assessments
- Jurisdiction in the Northern District of California
- Referrals with current or former sex offenses, will not be considered for participation.

## STRUCTURE

The SFRC is a four-phase program designed to be completed in a period of no less than 12 months. However, participation will not ordinarily exceed 24 months. The phases vary in length, and are determined by the goals of each phase. After successful completion of the four phases, participants will receive one year off of their supervision period and will enter aftercare. The aftercare portion of the program is tailored to the needs of the individual participant, which may include continued programming intended to provide ongoing support throughout the remaining period of supervision.

The tools and resources provided will encourage participants to take responsibility for their actions, develop an understanding of their criminogenic patterns, and the impact of their behavior on self, family and community. Throughout participation in Reentry Court, the participant will work toward the development of a positive community-based support network.

Finally, the participant will prepare and present a comprehensive relapse prevention plan prior to graduation from Reentry Court. Treatment services will be tailored to the individual needs of each participant. Upon completion of the SFRC, regular testing will be administered for the duration of supervision.

## PROGRAM PHASE COMPONENTS AND RESOURCES

- Court twice monthly (Biweekly on Mondays)
- Drug testing
- Office Visits
- Home and community visits
- Individual Therapy
- Group Therapy
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Employment and Vocational referrals
- Community Service Projects

Weekly Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) sessions are a Reentry Court program component for all participants throughout the program phases and aftercare period. CBT is a short term treatment, which is goal-oriented in nature. It takes a pragmatic approach to problem-solving by emphasizing a change in thinking and behavior patterns. The rationale behind Cognitive Behavior Therapy is that thinking drives behavior, and if participants can learn to control their thinking, they can learn to control their behavior which will empower them to have greater control of their outcomes.

There are many CBT curriculum programs in existence. Examples of CBT include Courage to Change, Thinking for a Change, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), and Staff Training Aimed at Reducing Re-Arrest (STARR). Reentry court participants will benefit from a CBT program available through the U.S. Probation Office.

## MEASURING PROGRESS

Participation will last for no less than 12 months (52 weeks) of satisfactory performance. The 12 months need not be consecutive. Participation shall not exceed 24 months. The U.S. Probation Office will chart the progress of each participant to include: length of sobriety; attendance and participation in all required court programming (CBT, substance abuse/mental health treatment, employment/life skills planning).

## INCENTIVES

- Reduced supervision upon successful completion of Reentry Court
- Public acknowledgement of success by the Court
- Promotion certificates at each step and graduation
- Graduation reception
- May also include: Gift certificates, candy, or bus passes

The above list are possibilities of incentives and not inclusive.

## SANCTIONS

- No credit given toward 52-week program total for any period in which performance is unsatisfactory
- Judicial reprimand
- Curfew adjustment
- Geographic and association restrictions
- Location monitoring
- Placement in a Residential Reentry Center
- Custody period
- Referral to the district court for revocation of supervised release, imprisonment, or suspension from the program

The Court reserves discretion on imposing sanctions.

## POLICY ON MISSED GROUPS, INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS, AND DRUG TESTS

It is required that every participant notify their probation officer for any missed groups, individual appointments, or drug tests.

All unexcused absences will be staffed by the Reentry Court team for a joint, appropriate Court action.

## TERMINATION

All serious non-compliance will be staffed with the reentry Court team to determine if the conduct warrants termination.

An example of serious non-compliance may include, but not limited to, continual failure to appear for group sessions, appointments, and any arrest for a Grade A or B violation.