

## INTRODUCTION

The Drug Intervention Program is a part-time court that has been specifically designed and staffed to supervise non-violent drug dependent defendants who have been referred to a comprehensive and judicially monitored program that consists of intensive supervision, drug treatment and rehabilitation. This program brings to bear the full weight of all interveners: the judge, probation office, correction and law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, defense counsel, rehabilitation/treatment specialists, vocational, educational, and employment specialists. This program is intended for those who are addicted to and are abusing drugs and/or alcohol and wish to change.

The Drug Intervention Program is built upon a unique partnership between the criminal justice system and drug treatment community, one that structures treatment intervention around the authority and personal involvement of a single judge. The Drug Intervention Program is also dependant upon the creation of a non-adversarial courtroom atmosphere where a single judge and dedicated team work toward a common goal of breaking the cycle of drug abuse and criminal behavior. The goals of the Drug Intervention Program are to:

- Reduce participant contact with the criminal justice system;
- Reduce costs associated with criminal case processing and recidivism;
- Reduce jail overcrowding;
- Introduce participants to an ongoing process of recovery designed to achieve total abstinence from illegal drugs and/or alcohol abuse; and
- Promote self-sufficiency and empower substance abusers to become productive and responsible members of the community.

The present policy of incarceration has not reduced drug addiction nor lowered the incidence of crime. The Drug Intervention Program's premise is based on the notion that intense judicial supervision coupled with immediate intensive treatment intervention after case disposition creates a significant opportunity for successful supervision and treatment of drug addicted defendants who are processed through the criminal justice system. While rehabilitating substance abuse offenders, the Drug Intervention Program's aim is to protect our community by decreasing drug-related crimes and reducing recidivism. The goal of the Drug Intervention Program is to promote positive interaction and effectiveness between the criminal justice system, community treatment agencies, and offenders. Similar drug courts have proven successful in a number of jurisdictions across the United States.

The Drug Intervention Program is a twelve (12) month substance abuse treatment/rehabilitation program that includes scheduled drug testing in addition to frequent random drug testing, judicial supervision, counseling, educational/vocational training, life skills training, social skills training, and the use of court imposed sanctions and incentives.