**Adult Drug Court Referral Process**

Drug court presents a valuable sentencing tool for judges dealing with defendants with drug addictions (not drug dependence), who commit crimes to support their habit. The drug court seeks to reduce crime, lower prison populations, and abate illegal drug use by participants.

General Criteria

1. Drug Use: The individual needs to have a substantial illegal drug use history and addiction that drives their criminal behavior. Alcohol abuse, alone, does not qualify as illegal drug use for the purposes of this program. When combined with other drugs it may.

2. Age: Over 18.

3. Must reside in Chittenden County

4. Can not be on furlough

5. Appropriateness for Treatment: Drug court typically works with high risk/high needs offenders. High Risk: prior convictions, prior treatment failures, non-drug offenses fueled by addiction. Failed on previous intense supervision dispositions (probation/furlough). High Needs: Addicted to drugs, lack of job, lack of housing, illiteracy, co-occurring, history of trauma, mental illness ,etc.

Sentencing Options

Drug court works best with individuals who would otherwise go to jail for a substantial sentence. Persons who would work well on probation or in intermediate sanction programs (ISAP) do not need this program.

Typical Charges

False pretense, retail thefts, prescription fraud, bad check, larceny, drug possession, forgery, VOP. Crimes of violence or crimes involving sales or distribution of drugs would exclude the candidate.