

# What is a Community Court?

Community Courts are neighborhood-focused courts that attempt to harness the power of the justice system to address local problems. They can take many forms but all focus on creative partnerships and problem-solving.

## What are some alternatives being offered?

- Community Service
- Treatment Sessions
- Medical Appointments
- Educational Classes
- Social Service Appointments pertaining to the underlying charge

# What is the Community Resource Center (CRC)?

The Community Resource Center works in conjunction with the Community Court to connect justice-involved individuals and members of the community with local social services. The CRC is currently open.

# Who can go to the Community Resource Center (CRC)?

- Anyone who would like assistance connecting to resources.
- Justice-involved individuals who have agreed to participate in the Community Court program and are referred to the CRC through an alternative sentence.

## Community Court eligibility criteria for justice-involved individuals

- You have been charged with the following eligible offense in New Castle County: criminal nuisance, criminal mischief, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, graffiti, loitering, low-level drug possession, prostitution, public intoxication, or shoplifting.
- You agree to be a part of the program and waive your right to a speedy trial.
- You allow your information to be shared with the Community Court staff and the referral partner(s).

## Exclusionary criteria for justice-involved individuals

- A significant criminal history may exclude you from the program.
- If a victim is involved, their input will be considered.

# What happens when you are referred to the CRC by the Court?

After you meet with the judge, you will go to the Community Resource Center to discuss with CRC staff the alternative sentence you received.

CRC staff will assist in making the appropriate referral to service partners based on the alternative sentence recommendation(s).

If you follow through with the alternative sentence recommendation(s), you may not have to come to court again unless you are entering a plea for a lesser offense.

If you are non-compliant, you will have to appear in front of the judicial officer. Additional services may be ordered or you may be terminated from the program.

*Participants in the Community Court program will be provided with a Participant Handbook, outlining all program details and requirements.*

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