

Who is Eligible to Attend the Program?

To be eligible to have a case heard in the Program the following legal and medical criteria must be met.

An individual must:

- Be an adult (18 years and over) charged with a criminal offence within the jurisdiction of Kings and/or West Hants Counties.
- Must live in Kings County or West Hants.
- Acknowledge responsibility for the act or omission that forms the basis of the offence(s) he/she is alleged to have committed.
- Have a mental illness (defined below) that is connected to the offence.

For the purpose of eligibility a “**mental illness**” means a recognized, significant and persistent mental illness such as schizophrenia, mood disorder, bipolar disorder (other psychosis), major depression and co-occurring mental health and substance-related dependency where the mental illness is the primary concern.

The Criminal Code requires the consent of the Attorney General for an individual to enter this program. This consent is determined by the local Crown Attorney



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Court Monitored Mental Health Program
Kings/West Hants Pilot
Kentville Justice Centre
Courtroom #2
87 Cornwallis Street
Kentville, Nova Scotia

HOURS OF OPERATION:
second Tuesday
at 3:30 p.m.
(902) 679-6070



Capital Health

THE COURT MONITORED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Court Monitored Mental Health Program works with people living with mental illness who are in conflict with the law. The main goals are to improve their well - being and living situations in order to decrease the likelihood of criminal recidivism.

In addition to the needs of the individual, the Program prominently weighs the potential risk of harm to the public in all decisions.

Program participants will accept responsibility for their action(s), and agree to adhere to mutually agreed upon treatment and supports.

The Court Monitored Mental Health Program

PROGRAM PHASES:

Appearance Phase

When a referral is received by the Program the defense lawyer meets with the candidate to explain what is expected of them, as well as the program requirements. During his or her first appearance, the candidate will be asked by the Judge if he or she would like to participate in a screening process by the Court team.

Screening Phase

Program team members meet with the candidate to gather information and conduct screening. The candidate will be required to sign consents. The team then meets to discuss and recommend whether the candidate is eligible for the program. If the candidate is invited into the program they will then move into the support plan development phase.

Support Plan Development Phase

This phase requires the candidate to meet with the mental health clinician(s) to develop a support plan that will guide treatment while in the program.

Program Phase

A participant will be expected to work with the team to follow his or her support plan. The successful completion of the Program involves a team recommendation regarding disposition of the outstanding charges.

What can a participant expect?

Participation in the Program is **voluntary**. The candidate must sign consents for release of details pertaining to his or her mental health, treatment, substance use, legal status and history to be shared with the Program team.

Once the screenings are completed and all relevant information is gathered, the Program team will decide if the candidate meets the eligibility requirements of the program.

The program team makes the final decision on whether to invite a candidate to participate in the program.

If a participant chooses to leave the Program their case will be returned to the originating Court.

The Program focuses on assisting participants to recognize and address his or her mental health and daily living needs. Participants can expect to appear in Court frequently to ensure compliance with an agreed upon support plan.

How long can a participant expect to be involved with the Program?

Unlike traditional Court there is no set time limit around a participant's involvement. Involvement is based upon progress in the program and usually involves approximately 12 to 18 months.

What happens if a participant does not comply with his or her support plan?

Efforts will be made to work with participants to make sure they are successful in the program. Their cooperation is very important. If not, the Program team may make recommendations to the Judge to impose special conditions known as sanctions.

Sanctions will depend on the participant. They may include but are not limited to, an increase in Court appearances, closer supervision, changes to their release conditions, revisions to their support plan, and removal from the Program.