

Mental Health Disorder Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration into the Nova Scotia Mental Health Court Program (the “Program”), applicants must have a diagnosed mental health disorder. The Program defines a mental health disorder as a **significant disturbance in an individual’s ability to think and/or problem solve; and/or control their emotions; and/or control their behavior**. Examples include, but are not limited to: Psychosis, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, and other Mood Disorders. The Program may also consider individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders or brain injury on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants with an Opiate Use Disorder significantly related to their offence may be considered for the Opioid Court Program (see the Opioid Court Program brochure).

The Program may review cases in which the sole diagnosis does not clearly fit these criteria (e.g. sole diagnosis of personality disorder or ADHD) in exceptional circumstances, where there is a clear nexus and the individual would benefit from the Program’s intervention.

The Program **will not** consider individuals whose sole diagnosis is Antisocial Personality Disorder; individuals whose sole diagnosis falls within the spectrum of paraphilic disorders (e.g. Pedophilia or Exhibitionism); or individuals whose sole diagnosis is a non-opioid Substance Use Disorder (e.g. Cocaine Use Disorder).

In all cases, an individual’s acceptance to the Program will be considered with respect to the Program’s ability to support the individual and manage any risk in the community.