

INTERVENTION PROGRAM

For

SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

(IPSA)

11651 Nebel Street
Rockville, Maryland 20852
(240) 777-5410



The Intervention Program for Substance Abusers is managed by the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Pre-Trial Services Division. The program is run in cooperation with the State's Attorney's Office, the County Police Department and the County Department of Health and Human Services.

THE INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSERS (IPSA)

For

MISDEMEANOR DRUG CASES

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The IPSA program is a substance abuse and intervention strategy that provides diversion from prosecution for some individuals charged with minor crimes involving substance abuse.

The IPSA program also offers Judges a sentencing option for offenders who have mild to moderate substance abuse problems and limited criminal histories.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Offenders referred for the diversion program:

- Must only be charged with a minor drug offense and related acts.
- Cannot have any prior felony convictions within the past 10 years.
 - Convictions older than 10 years will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Cannot have served more than 30 days in jail within the past 10 years.
- Cannot have participated in the IPSA program for a criminal misdemeanor drug charge in the past.
- Must not have any pending felony criminal charges (defendants may be eligible at a later date if pending charges are dropped).

Offenders referred to IPSA as a condition of probation should be those persons who have mild to moderate substance abuse histories and limited prior criminal records. Probation referrals may not have a prior conviction for a violent offense as defined in Article 27, 643(b).

SCREENING PROCESS:

Diversion clients can only be referred to IPSA by the State's Attorney's Office. Clients meeting the State's Attorney's guidelines are given a preliminary screening by a Correctional Specialist with the Department of Corrections, usually on the day of their first court date.

If the initial screening determines the defendant has met the above criteria, an appointment is set for the defendant to meet with an IPSA Caseworker for a full assessment to determine the extent of the defendant's substance use and whether they will be referred for Drug Education or Drug Treatment. A new court date is scheduled to allow for this appointment to occur.

If the defendant does not meet the above criteria for IPSA diversion, the Correctional Specialist will notify the State's Attorney.

Eligible clients volunteering for IPSA will sign a program contract. As a condition of participation, defendants must agree to waive their right to a speedy trial and their case is placed on the STET docket for a period of one year.

Offenders on probation, whose conditions of probation include IPSA, are referred to IPSA by their Probation Agents. These clients will follow the same process regarding screening and assessment for program eligibility.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

All participants must agree to adhere to the following program requirements:

- Participate in Drug Education or Drug Treatment as determined by their IPSA Caseworker.
- Perform 24 hours of community service.
- Submit to drug and alcohol testing twice per week and remain drug and alcohol-free throughout their stay on the program.
- Attend the required number of support group meetings (AA/NA) in the community.
- Meet with the assigned IPSA Caseworker as instructed.
- Refrain from behavior that may lead to a new arrest.
- Pay a program fee prior to program completion.

THE IPSA ALTERNATIVE

For

CRIMINAL DRUG CITATION CASES

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Defendants referred for diversion for a criminal drug citation:

- Must only be charged with a minor drug offense and related acts.
- Cannot have any prior felony convictions within the past 10 years.
 - Convictions older than 10 years will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Cannot have served more than 30 days in jail within the past 10 years.
- Cannot have participated in the IPSA program for Criminal Misdemeanor Drug Charge **or** in the IPSA program for Criminal Drug Citation Cases. (If the defendant has participated in IPSA due to a prior criminal citation, they may be eligible for the IPSA program for Misdemeanor Drug Charges)
- Must not have any pending criminal charges (defendants may be eligible at a later date if pending charges are dropped).

SCREENING PROCESS:

Diversion clients can only be referred to IPSA by the State's Attorney's Office. Clients meeting the State's Attorney's guidelines are given a preliminary screening by a Correctional Specialist with the Department of Corrections, usually on the day of their first court date.

The Correctional Specialist will notify the State's Attorney if the defendant does/does not meet the above criteria for IPSA diversion after the initial screening.

Eligible clients volunteering for IPSA will sign A program contract, as a condition of participation defendants must agree to waive their right to a speedy trial and their case is placed on the STET docket for a period of six months.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

All participants agree to adhere to the following program requirements:

- Participate in four Drug Education classes.
- Complete 24 hours of community service.
- Agree to remain drug-free throughout their stay on the program. Submit to random or regular drug testing if deemed appropriate by the assigned IPSA Caseworker.
- Meet with assigned IPSA Caseworker as instructed.
- Refrain from behavior that may lead to a new charge.
- Pay the program fee prior to program completion.

Defendants are expected to complete the above requirements within two months. Extensions must be approved by the assigned Caseworker.

IPSA PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Offers defendants the opportunity to examine the extent of their use of drugs and alcohol and consider the consequences of continuing substance abuse.
- Diversion participants may have their criminal record expunged following successful completion.
- By diverting first offenders, the IPSA program alleviates pressure on the court system.
- The program reduces the cost of prosecution and participant fees help to offset program costs.
- As a condition of probation, IPSA offers Judges an additional community treatment option for drug offenders.

INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

A Diversion Program for First Time Drug Offenders



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