

Drug Intervention and Community Service Program



The Pretrial Drug Intervention and Community Service Program (DICSP) is available for certain defendants who are charged with violating certain drug possession or drug paraphernalia laws. The DICSP gives eligible defendants a chance to get education or substance use treatment and do community service instead of going to trial. Any defendant who wants to take part in the DICSP must meet the eligibility requirements in Public Acts, Spec. Sess., June, 2021, No. 21-1 § 166 and must submit an application to the court.

When a defendant applies for the DISCP, the court file is sealed, and the court will get a recommendation from the prosecutor in the case about whether the defendant should be allowed to take part in the program. The court will also send the defendant to the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) to confirm that the defendant is eligible for the DICSP and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for an evaluation. During the evaluation, DMHAS will figure out which component of the program the defendant should take part in; either the 12-session drug education component or the substance use treatment component of at least 15 sessions. If the defendant is a veteran, however, the court may send the defendant to the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, instead of DMHAS, for the evaluation. For the DISCP, a veteran is any person who meets the definition of "veteran" in General Statutes § 27-103.

If the court grants the defendant's application for the DICSP, the defendant must agree to:

- The tolling of the statute of limitations (to give the state more time to prosecute the case if the defendant does not successfully finish the program);
- Waive (give up) the right to a speedy trial;
- Take part in whichever program component that DMHAS recommends;
- Start the program within 90 days unless CSSD allows a later start time; and
- Go to additional substance use treatment after completing the assigned program component if CSSD thinks it is necessary.

Defendants can take part in the DISCP 2 times, and a 3rd time if the court finds good cause (a good reason to let the defendant into the program a 3rd time).

- Defendants taking part in the program for the 1st time will be required to:
 - Attend the drug education or substance use treatment component; and
 - Do 5 days of community service
- Defendants taking part in the program for the 2nd time will be required to:
 - Attend the drug education or substance use treatment component; and
 - Do 15 days of community service
- Defendants taking part in the program for the 3rd time will be required to:
 - Attend the substance use treatment component; and
 - Do 30 days of community service

(continued)



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If the defendant successfully finishes the assigned component of the program and the required community service, the court will dismiss the charges against the defendant.

Any defendants who want to apply for the DISCP must pay an application fee of \$100, a nonrefundable evaluation fee of \$150, and a nonrefundable program fee of:

- \$400, if the court orders the defendant to take part in the drug education component; or
- \$100 plus the cost of treatment, if the court orders the defendant to take part in the substance use treatment component.

The court may decide that the defendant does not have to pay some or all of those fees and costs, though, if the court finds that the defendant is indigent and unable to pay or that the defendant is or is eligible to be represented by a Public Defender.



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