



Community Courts

COMMUNITY COURTS combine conventional punishments with alternative sanctions and on-site treatment and training in an effort to break the “revolving door” cycle of crime. They are a collaboration of traditionally separate entities, including citizens, criminal justice agencies, businesses, local civic organizations, government entities and social service providers, resulting in neighborhood-focused problem solving.

MANY COMMUNITY COURTS HOUSE AN ARRAY of non-traditional programs, such as mediation, job training and placement, drug treatment and homeless outreach, all of which are rigorously monitored by the court in order to address problems that often underlie criminal behavior. Services specifically targeted for youth include job readiness, substance abuse, HIV prevention and tutoring and mentor programs.

NEW YORK STATE PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS



www.nycourts.gov/courts/problem_solving/

NEW YORK STATE PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS look to the issues that bring litigants into the justice system and seek to implement new approaches, including judicial monitoring and the incorporation of community resources. This comprehensive approach increases offender accountability, enhances community safety and improves outcomes while protecting the rights of all litigants.

HON. JUDY HARRIS KLUGER, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Court Operations and Planning, is responsible for implementation and oversight of all Problem-Solving Courts in New York State.

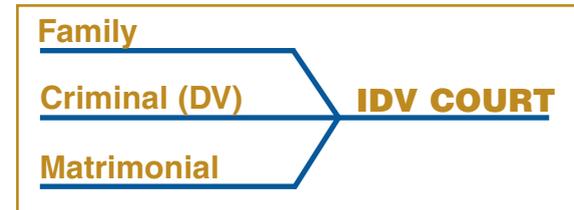
PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS IN NEW YORK STATE INCLUDE: Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, Domestic Violence Courts, Drug Treatment Courts, Mental Health Courts, Sex Offense Courts, Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Courts and Community Courts.

HALLMARKS OF ALL PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS INCLUDE a dedicated judge who, along with court staff, is trained in issues unique to that court type; increased engagement with litigants; and close coordination between the Problem-Solving Court and outside groups, including prosecutors, defense attorneys, civil attorneys, law guardians, service providers, victim services organizations and law enforcement, as well as other courts in the county and state.



Integrated Domestic Violence Courts

INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (“IDV”) COURTS serve families by allowing a single judge to hear multiple case types - criminal, family and matrimonial - which relate to one family where the underlying issue is domestic violence. Dedicated



to the “one family – one judge” model, IDV Courts respond to a historic problem in the court system, where domestic violence victims and their families traditionally had to appear in different courts before multiple judges, often located in different parts of a county, to address their legal issues. By connecting one judge with one family, IDV Courts aim to provide more informed judicial decision-making and greater consistency in court orders, while reducing the number of court appearances. In addition, these courts facilitate access to enhanced services for litigants and help to ensure offender accountability.



Sex Offense Courts

SEX OFFENSE COURTS handle eligible criminal cases where the defendant has been charged with a sex offense. These courts seek to enhance public safety through monitoring offenders on probation supervision, providing consistent and swift intervention and enhancing offender accountability. Sex Offense Courts work with probation departments to encourage the use of a combination of intensive supervision, treatment and behavioral verification to control offending behavior.

SEX OFFENSE COURT JUDGES AND STAFF coordinate with all relevant stakeholders, such as prosecutors, departments of probation, defense attorneys and victim service agencies to ensure a uniform approach to the management of eligible sex offense cases and to promote the development and use of best practices.



Domestic Violence Courts

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (“DV”) COURTS adjudicate criminal offenses involving intimate partners. Domestic Violence Courts have been developed as part of the justice system's coordinated response to domestic violence. Dedicated to enhancing safety and offender accountability, DV Courts facilitate access to needed services, ensure intensive judicial monitoring and promote increased coordination among the courts, community stakeholders and service providers.

YOUTHFUL OFFENDER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (“YODV”) COURTS handle exclusively those domestic violence cases involving defendants aged 16 through 19. Like in all DV Courts, the presiding judge in a YODV Court is trained in the dynamics of domestic violence and in addition is sensitive to the characteristics of the population of adolescent defendants. YODV Courts work closely with providers of mandated programs geared toward young offenders and the distinct issues they face.



Drug Treatment Courts

DRUG TREATMENT COURTS provide court-mandated substance abuse treatment to non-violent addicted offenders, as well as to juveniles and to parents charged in Family Court child neglect cases, in an effort to end the cycle of addiction and recidivism. What distinguishes Drug Courts is their uniquely collaborative approach to treatment: upon voluntary entry into court-supervised programs, appropriate non-violent addicted offenders become part of an intervention process. This process involves coordination between defense attorneys, prosecutors, treatment and education providers and law enforcement officials. Rules of participation are defined clearly in a contract agreed upon by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, the district attorney and the court.



Mental Health Courts

THE GOAL OF MENTAL HEALTH COURTS is to link defendants to treatment when mental illness is the underlying cause of their criminal activity. These courts build on the Drug Court model by seeking to break the cycle of criminal behavior through treatment. Mental Health Courts facilitate access to psychological services, provide intensive judicial monitoring and promote collaboration among the court, community stakeholders, local mental health departments, mental health service providers and social service providers.