

## Ramsey County Mental Health Court Referral Procedure

### ❖ **WHAT IS THE RCMHC?**

The Ramsey County Mental Health Court (RCMHC) is a voluntary, pre-adjudication and post-sentence program. The RCMHC became operational in May 2005 and was created when it became increasingly clear that persons with mental illness and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders were in need of more specialized and individualized treatment. By partnering with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the RCMHC team includes community human services case managers who can link participants to available community mental and chemical health services. RCMHC provides people whose criminal acts are driven by mental illness an opportunity to go into court-supervised treatment rather than the traditional court route. For more information, go to: [MN 2nd District Mental Health Program](#).

### ❖ **QUESTIONS RE: ELIGIBILITY AND REFERRAL PROCESS?**

Contact Brandi Stavlo, RCMHC Program Coordinator with defendant's name and case file number(s). Telephone (651) 266-9256 or email [brandi.stavlo@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:brandi.stavlo@courts.state.mn.us).

### ❖ **ELIGIBILITY**

An individual must have a current criminal charge in Ramsey County.

### ❖ **HOW TO REFER A CLIENT OR FAMILY MEMBER TO RCMHC:**

#### **STEP 1: CONTACT PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**

Contact the RCMHC Program Coordinator with defendant's name and case file number(s). **Please do not instruct defendant to contact RCMHC case management.**

#### **STEP 2: APPROVAL:**

The St. Paul City Attorney's Office or Ramsey County Attorney's Office must agree to the RCMHC referral. The Program Coordinator will alert the referral source to the approval.

#### **STEP 3: COURT HEARINGS ARE SCHEDULED:**

The defendant will be scheduled for both a RCMHC court hearing date **and** his/her next scheduled criminal court date. The defendant will be sent an order to report to court via mail.

#### **STEP 4: RCMHC HEARING:**

At the RCMHC court hearing date, the defendant will observe the court proceeding. If the defendant wants to continue the RCMHC referral process after observing court, he/she will be required to on the record:

- Mental Health Intake Assessment: Schedule a mental health intake assessment with the RCMHC case manager to determine appropriateness for the program
- Conditionally Released: Be conditionally released to Project Remand for purposes of RCMHC referral
- Acceptance/Denial: Come back to RCMHC for acceptance or denial into the program

#### **STEP 5: DISTRIBUTE LEGAL OFFERS:**

All legal offers in RCMHC come from the prosecutor. In all cases, two legal offers (RCMHC offer and Traditional Track offer) will be made and distributed by the prosecutor to the defense attorney, RCMHC Program Coordinator and RCMHC Case Manager **within a week** of the first appearance in RCMHC.

#### **STEP 6: DEFENSE ATTORNEY ROLE:**

The assigned public defender will be available to answer any legal questions the defendant may have regarding the offers given by the prosecutor.