

HOMES Court

Guidelines for Participants

Welcome to the HOMES Court program. The goal of HOMES Court is to help you break the cycle of homelessness and crime. We will help connect you to support services and offer meaningful and attainable goals as a part of the disposition of your criminal case.

Court Hearings

HOMES Court meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at **2:00 pm** in **Courtroom 853** of the Hennepin County Government Center. Please be on time and plan to stay as much as two hours. Feel free to sit in the jury box if the audience section is full. Do not come to court under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

A public defender will be available to represent you in all legal proceedings such as entering a guilty plea, sentencing, and addressing probation violations.

If you do not attend a scheduled court appearance, a bench warrant will be issued for your arrest. If an emergency arises, contact your caseworker or probation officer so they can explain your problem to the judge and ask that the matter be rescheduled.

At court hearings you will have the chance to plead guilty for one of the advantageous dispositions described below. After your plea of guilty, review hearings will be scheduled as needed to identify your needs, connect you with helpful resources, set goals and acknowledge your progress toward meeting your goals, and address any violations.

Trials are not available in HOMES Court; if you want a trial just tell the public defender and your case will be scheduled on a trial calendar.

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Case Dispositions

HOMES Court participants have been charged with one or more misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor offenses by the Minneapolis City Attorney. You will be offered one of the following dispositions if you plead guilty. The dispositions are designed to provide an incentive for you to avoid further offenses and to participate in services that will help you remain crime-free.

Stay of execution: upon your guilty plea, workhouse time is stayed on condition that you comply with conditions of probation.

Stay of imposition: upon your guilty plea, the charges are dismissed if you successfully complete probation. You will have a conviction on your record.

Stay of adjudication: upon your guilty plea, entry of judgment is stayed and the case is dismissed if you successfully complete probation. You will have no conviction on your record.

Continuance for dismissal: If you comply with certain conditions, the case will be dismissed after a specified period of time. You do not enter a guilty plea and you have no conviction on your record.

Dismissal without prejudice: Under certain circumstances, such as when a pending case is preventing you from getting housing, the City Attorney may dismiss a case and reserve the right to charge the case again if you fail to follow through on specified conditions, like obtaining the housing and necessary services.

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Dismissal: If the City Attorney dismisses some charges because you plead guilty to other charges, the City Attorney cannot later charge the case again.

HOMES Court Supervision

As a HOMES court participant, you will be under court supervision for up to two years, depending on your sentence and your progress in attaining your goals. Court supervision may consist of pretrial supervision, such as when the City offers you a continuance for dismissal if you comply with certain conditions, or probation supervision.

Probation

Following a guilty plea, you will be on probation for one to two years. Probation is an alternative to incarceration, and you must comply with certain conditions or sanctions will be imposed.

The conditions of probation will always include that you do not commit another offense. Immediately report any police contact or new charges to your probation officer, your case worker and the court.

The conditions of probation will also include cooperating with your advocate or social worker, attending meetings or appointments the advocate schedules for you, and following up on the advocate's recommendations for services you should access.

The conditions of probation may also include specific activities such as seeking housing or employment, obtaining a chemical health or psychological assessment, and following the recommendations.

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You may or not have an assigned probation officer. If you do, you must keep in contact and follow the PO's requests.

Sanctions for probation violations may include revoking some or all of your stayed time and sentencing you to spend time in jail or the workhouse, one or more days of Sentence to Service ("STS", the county work program), community service, attending court more frequently, or writing an essay or explanation of your conduct. You are entitled to a hearing with the assistance of the public defender if you challenge the violation.

If you make satisfactory progress in complying with the conditions of probation and achieving your goals, even if the term of your probation is not over, the City Attorney will recommend to the court that you do not need to come to further court hearings. We hope to be able to congratulate you on this accomplishment!

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Common Phone Numbers and Addresses

Homelessness Court Coordinator:612-348-9265

John Hultquist

C-800 Government Center, MC 421

Minneapolis, MN 55487

Homelessness Court Judge:612-596-7386

Judge Bruce Peterson

Law Clerk Melanie Wimmer

C-800 Government Center, MC 422

Minneapolis, MN 55487

DT100 Probation Supervisor:612-348-6965

Ron Cunningham

A-800 Government Center, MC 087

Minneapolis, MN 55487

Minneapolis City Attorney's Office:612-673-2010

1st Precinct Community Attorney Heidi Johnston:.....612-673-5526

City Hall, Room 210

350 S. 5th St.

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Office of the Public Defender.....612-348-7530

Assistant Hennepin County Public Defender Peter Martin.....612-348-7530

701 4th Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Chemical Health Unit – Appointments.....612-348-4111

Adult Shelters:

St. Stephen's.....612-872-9292

2211 Clinton Avenue South

Higher Ground.....612-204-8552

165 Glenwood Avenue

Simpson Housing.....612-874-0306

2740 First Avenue South

Salvation Army - Harbor Lights.....612-767-3100

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1010 Currie Avenue

Our Saviour's Housing.....612-872-4193

2315 Chicago Avenue South

Daytime Street Outreach/Services:

St. Stephen's.....612-879-7624

333 South 12th Street (Central Lutheran Church).....Toll Free: 1-888-550-7624

St. Stephen's Main Office.....612-874-0311

2309 Nicollet Avenue South

Catholic Charities Opportunity Center.....612-204-8300

740 East 17th Street

Health Care:

Health Care for the Homeless.....612-348-5553

Mental Health Resources:

Hennepin County Front Door..... 612-348-4111

Hennepin County Mental Health Center..... 612-596-9438

1801 Nicollet Avenue South

Acute Psychiatric Services (HCMC Crisis Center).....612-873-3161

717 S. Seventh Street

Suicide Hotline..... 612-873-2222

Crisis Connection.....612-379-6363