

Pathways to New Beginning; Changing Thoughts, Changing Actions, Changing Life

Program Description:

The Minneapolis City Attorney's Office (MCAO) is implementing an alternative sentencing option for defendants who are convicted of any gross misdemeanor weapons offense.

The MCAO has partnered with Urban Ventures in developing this program. The Pathways to New Beginnings program is designed with the goal of reducing recidivism through a community-based program that will address the risk factors and needs of these defendants. The traditional consequence of a jail sentence has not proven to be effective in reducing the risk of recidivism. Urban Ventures will operate this program out of their South Minneapolis campus, located one block off of East Lake Street.

Eligibility Requirements¹:

1. Charged with a gross misdemeanor weapons offense
2. **Prior Gun Convictions:** The defendant has no prior gun convictions
3. **Violent Felony convictions:** The defendant has no prior violent felony convictions
4. **Crimes of Violence:** The defendant has no prior convictions for any crime of violence as defined by Minn. Stat. §624.712.5
5. **Non-Violent Felony Convictions:** The defendant has no prior convictions for a non-violent felony offense within that last 5 years (property / low-level narcotics)
6. **Qualified Domestic Violence Offense:** The defendant has no prior domestic assault or domestic assault related convictions
7. **Non-Domestic Assault Convictions:** The defendant has no prior non-domestic assault convictions within the past 5 years (If case was pled down to a DOC or some other charge it does not make them ineligible even if it occurred within the past 5 years)
8. **Active Supervision:** The defendant is not currently on any form of active supervised probation
9. **Open Felony:** The defendant may not have an open felony charge
10. The defendant must enter a plea of guilty to the charge

Case Resolution:

1. Sentence is a stay of adjudication for 2 years. No same or similar offenses to include no weapon or weapon-related offenses, no assault (including non-domestic and domestic assault) or assault-related offenses (including non-domestic and domestic assault) and no new felony offenses, pay \$200 in prosecution costs, forfeit the weapon, and complete the program.
2. If the defendant does not want to participate in the program, follow the negotiations guidelines as outlined in the policy and procedure manual for the offense.

Program Requirements:

1. Program consists of two Phases—Phase 1 is 12 weeks in length with 67 hours of programming to be completed (66 group hours and 1 hour of case management). Phase 2 is 3-6-months in length with 7.5-15 hours of programming to be completed (4.5-9 group hours and 3-6 hours of case management). The length of time a participant will spend in Phase 2 will be determined by the Pathway's Program.
 - Phase 1—**programming is held every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM or every Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM during the first 12-weeks**
 - Phase 2—**programming will be held every 1st Thursday of the month or every 1st Saturday and case management is to be schedule once per month.**
2. Defendant is required to contact the program and set up an intake within 3 business days of sentencing.
3. Complete the initial Intake, Diagnostic & Risk assessments (6 hours)
 - a. Complete a diagnostic evaluation and follow any recommendations from assessment
 - b. Complete a risk assessment
 - c. Development of an individualized service plan

¹ The Prosecutor may utilize his/her discretion in overriding these criteria when appropriate

4. Complete the core courses (66 hours total) – all classes will be held on Thursday all day commitment
 - a. Lifeblood-Life Changing Transformation (10:00-11:30am 1.5 hour/week for 12 weeks -18 hours)
 - b. TIPS [changing thinking for changed behavior] (12:00-1:30pm 1.5 hours/week for 12 weeks – 18 hours)
 - c. Managing Strong Emotions (Anger Management) (2:30-4:00pm 1.5 hours/week for 12 weeks – 18 hours)
 - d. Healing from the Pain: Trauma (4:00-5:00pm 1.0 hours/week for 12 weeks – 12 hours)

5. Complete required case management services:
 - Phase 1—1 hour
 - Phase 2—3-6 hours (determined by the length of time in the program)

6. Complete the 3-6 month aftercare program
 - a. Complete 3-6 group sessions
 - b. Complete 3-6 sessions with case manager

Termination Events:

1. Failure to complete program requirements
2. Charged with carrying a pistol without a permit or new gun offense during the probationary period
3. Charged with a new felony offense during the probationary period
4. Charged with a new DWI/DRE offense during the probationary period
5. Charged with a GM obstruction with force offense during the probationary period
6. Charged with a new crime of violence as defined by Minn. Stat. §624.712.5 during the probationary period

Expungement:

1. The MCAO may assist qualifying graduates of the Pathways to New Beginnings program by requesting that records associated with the offense be expunged.
2. The expungement request cannot be made until one year has passed since the graduate's completion of their Stay of Adjudication.
3. When a graduate satisfies criteria established by the MCAO, prosecutors may assist by filing all required paperwork and asking the court to expunge district court and law enforcement records, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 609A.025. As a result, a qualifying graduate may be excused from filing a petition for expungement.
4. To discuss whether an expungement may be appropriate the graduate may contact either the defense attorney who handled their case or, if currently unrepresented by counsel, they may contact Assistant City Attorney Heidi Johnston at Heidi.Johnston@minneapolismn.gov

URBAN VENTURES
GROSS MISDEMEANOR GUN DIVERSION
PROGRAM

Defendant shall enroll in the program by contacting Urban Ventures within three (3) days of their court appearance.

Contact: Priscilla Brown
PriscillaBrown@urbanventures.org
612-455-4644

Or stop in: 3023 4th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408