



Contact: Diversion Strategies Group, 602-372-7300

### ***Felony Diversion Program:***

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) Felony Diversion Program offered through SAGE Counseling Inc. began in May 2020. The Felony Diversion Program is an education and treatment program for individuals charged with crimes involving specific felony offenses, including the possession of controlled substances and meeting other eligibility criteria. This program combines what was formerly known as the Drug Diversion Program and Felony Pretrial Intervention Program (FPIP). The treatment offered in the Felony Diversion Program will address the specific underlying behaviors and attitudes that affect criminal behavior. The Felony Diversion Program will permit the MCAO to respond more effectively to the needs of adult offenders, by using research-based curricula to address specific individual criminogenic needs. Diverting these offenders reduces their contact with the criminal justice system, increases connections to appropriate community-based systems of care, and holds the individual accountable for criminal conduct. If applicable to their case, restitution must be paid in full to earn a successful completion; thus, providing timely financial restoration to the victim.

### ***How the Felony Diversion Program Works:***

- Eligibility: will be determined by the Deputy County Attorney (DCA) for defendants with specific lower level eligible felonies;
- If applicable to the case, the collection of restitution is mandatory:
  - Restitution is capped at \$2000.00, and
  - 50% of the balance must be paid within the first 30 days of starting Felony Diversion Program. The remaining monies owed may be paid in equal installment payments with a due date determined by the Contractor.
- The DCA is solely responsible for referring offenders to the Felony Diversion Program. If eligible, the DCA suspends prosecution for two (2) years for completion of diversion;
- Referred offenders will be <sup>1</sup>assessed and placed into a "Track" depending upon the overall risk to reoffend and the specific criminogenic need(s) to be addressed. Each track provides a unique evidence-based <sup>2</sup>curriculum, with consideration for the appropriate intensity and duration based upon risk level and specific requirements for successful completion. All tracks will provide clinical services, together with a cognitive-behavioral intervention and skill development. Depending upon the type of offense, treatment plans and range of required services will be tailored to individual needs;
- For offenders who successfully complete the Felony Diversion Program, the DCA will file a motion to dismiss the charges with prejudice. If unsuccessful the DCA will reinstate prosecution;
- This is an individualized treatment program; therefore, program length will vary;
- Service delivery will be administered by SAGE Counseling, Inc., a behavioral health organization; and
- Treatment services may be covered for AHCCCS verified members. SAGE will also assist in AHCCCS enrollment for those who may qualify, but not currently enrolled. A discount in fees may be available to those who qualify through a financial assessment process.

### ***Overall Program Goals:***

- Rehabilitate offenders by treating their underlying problems by changing attitudes and beliefs;
- Placement in treatment program where curriculum, dosage, and intensity are criminogenically appropriate for the offender's risk level and needs (e.g. do not overtreat, undertreat, or mix risk level populations)
- Offender accountability for criminal conduct; reduce recidivism; and reduce collateral consequences for offenders.

<sup>1</sup>SAGE Counseling staff are trained and certified to utilize the ORAS (Ohio Risk Assessment System) Assessment Tool; specifically, the CST to identify criminogenic needs. <sup>2</sup>SAGE Counseling staff are certified to facilitate the Decision Points (DP) and T4C Program. SAGE Counseling staff are trained to facilitate all other curricula.

**TREATMENT TRACKS:****TRACK ONE: for LOW risk offenders with a moderate to high substance abuse criminogenic need**

- Drug Treatment: Early Intervention Substance Abuse Education/Treatment
  - Program length: completion of all 10 sessions, 1x per week (2-hour group counseling)
  - Required: Urinalysis/Drug Screening
  - Curriculum: *Group Treatment for Substance Abuse: A Stages of Change Therapy Model*

**TRACK TWO: for LOW risk offenders with a moderate to high substance abuse criminogenic need**

- Drug Treatment: Lapse/Relapse Prevention Program
  - Geared towards those who have had success in past substance abuse education/treatment, but have returned to substance use
  - Program Length: completion of all 10 sessions, 1x per week (2-hour group counseling)
  - Required: Urinalysis/Drug Screening
  - Curriculum: *SAMHSA: Counselor's Manual for Relapse Prevention with Chemically Dependent Criminal Offenders*

**TRACK THREE: for MODERATE risk offenders with a moderate to high substance abuse criminogenic need**

- Drug Treatment – Standard Outpatient Program (SOP)
  - Program Length: completion of 20-34 sessions, 2x per week (2-hour group counseling)
  - Required: completion of the 12 Core Sessions with supplemental supportive sessions based upon individual needs
  - Required: 1 post-group Case Management session
  - Individual counseling/additional Case Management services available
  - Required: Urinalysis/Drug Screening
  - Curriculum: *Hazelden's Living in Balance*

**TRACK FOUR: for HIGH to VERY HIGH risk offenders with a moderate to high substance abuse criminogenic need**

- Drug Treatment – Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)
  - Program Length: completion of all 50 sessions (3-hour group sessions)
    - Phase I = 3x per week, then stepdown
    - Phase II = 2x per week, then stepdown
    - Phase III = 1x per week
  - Required: 3-12 individual counseling sessions; Case Management services available
  - Required: Urinalysis/Drug Screening
  - Curriculum: *Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse: Strategies for Self-Improvement and Change, Pathways to Responsible Living*
  - Referrals to inpatient and higher end services may be possible

**TRACK FIVE: for LOW risk offenders with low to high criminogenic needs in all other domains except substance abuse**

- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention: LOW
  - Program Length: completion of all 12 sessions, 1x per week (2-hour counseling groups)
  - Urinalysis/Drug Screening available if needed
  - Curriculum: *Decision Points* (5 lessons + accompanied activities)

**TRACK SIX: for MODERATE TO VERY HIGH risk offenders with low to high criminogenic needs in all other domains except substance abuse**

- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention: MODERATE to VERY HIGH
  - Program Length: completion of all 25 - Closed group sessions, 2x per week (2-hour counseling groups)
  - Individual counseling sessions/Case Management services available
  - Urinalysis/Drug Screening available if needed
  - Curriculum: *National Institute of Corrections: Thinking for a Change (T4C)*

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