

Fifth Judicial District Mental Health Court Program

TO: All Fifth Judicial District Judges and Clerks

FROM: Calvin H. Campbell, Presiding Judge
Mental Health Court Fifth District, and
Richard Neu, Fifth Judicial District,
Problem Solving Court Manager
Mental Health Court Coordinator

RE: Change in the Mental Health Court application process

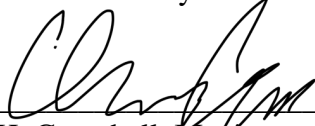
DATE: October 1, 2018

Previously, when a defendant submitted an application to participate in the Mental Health Court, their counsel would also submit a motion and order for Mental Health Court assessment. In many cases there was no history or indications of mental health issues being present. The approximately 6 hours of time being devoted to conducting assessments that are not justified is contributing to a significant delay in receiving assessments that are justified and frequently cause a delay in sentencing or disposition hearings.

In an effort to improve on the efficiency of the MHC application process and decrease the time involved in the assessment process, effective October 1, 2018, we are implementing the following changes:

Attached you will find a new Order for Mental Health Court Screening/Assessment. The Department of Health and Welfare, upon receipt of this order will conduct a mental health screening with a validated screening instrument and clinical interview. If no evidence of a serious mental illness is present, the assessment process will end. The Department of Health and Welfare will notify the Mental Health Court that the defendant doesn't meet diagnostic eligibility criteria and a denial will be sent to the sentencing court and counsel. If they determine there is a probability of a serious mental illness being present, they will automatically proceed with the full mental health assessment which the Mental Health Court will use to determine the eligibility status of the defendant.

Should you have any questions or require any further information, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Neu or myself.



Calvin H. Campbell, Magistrate Judge