



FACT SHEET

Mental Health Court Support Program

The Basics:

- The Mental Health Court Support Program provides assistance to individuals with a mental health issue involved with the criminal justice system.
- CMHA Court support workers attend the Simcoe courthouse in Norfolk County on a daily basis for bail hearings as well as Tuesday mornings for Remand court. We are also present at the Cayuga court in Haldimand County for bail and remand hearings. We provide support and assistance to both clientele and family members.
- Involvement with the court support program is completely voluntary.
- Eligibility for support does not necessarily require a formal mental health diagnosis. The program assists individuals 16 years of age or older with a suspected or diagnosed Mental Illness, Dual Diagnosis (mental illness and developmental disorder), Concurrent Disorder (mental illness and substance abuse), Complex Disorder (mental illness and brain injury/ABI), and Alzheimers/dementia.
- Any person may make a referral to the court support program (including self-referral).

Diversion:

- The Court Support program provides a specialized service called the Mental Health Diversion program for eligible clients. Some criminal charges that are minor in nature may be diverted if the accused individual has a mental health issue and is willing to develop and follow a treatment plan. With the consent of the Crown Attorney and the cooperation of the accused, a diversion plan can be initiated.
- A diversion plan can include such things as: agreeing to have regular contact with your doctor or psychiatrist, taking your medications as prescribed, attending regular appointments with the court support case manager, and cooperating with referrals made to other agencies, if appropriate.
- On successful completion of the diversion program, charges can be withdrawn by the Crown Attorney.

Mental Health Legal Clinic:

- The court support program also offers a Mental Health Legal Clinic held at the CMHA office (once or twice per month) so that eligible individuals can speak with a lawyer for 15 minutes free of charge. The clinic is financially supported by the Human Services Justice Coordinating Committee in cooperation with CMHA.

There is no wait list for any of the mental health court support services. To make a referral to the program, or for more information about the court support services, please call (519) 428-2380 or email info@cmha-hn.ca.