

LAST CHANCE PROGRAM

Philosophy of Deferred Imposition of Sentence

- Demonstrates flexibility by the justice system to support the efforts of the offender to alter their behavior and prescribes conditions that reflect the multivariate nature of their behavioral and lifestyle choices leading to criminality.
- Demonstrates a compassionate justice approach that considers the well-being of the offender and extends an opportunity to alter lifestyle habits
- Promotes restorative justice strategy with specific conditions of sentence
- Uses multifaceted sentencing approach to diminish the likelihood of recidivism by altering behavior of the offender and identifying those factors that chronically contribute to criminality
- Positions the court to impose maximum sentences in future cases
- Sends a clear message to the offender that society is about to give up on them

Risks of the Program

- Potential continued threat to the community
- Perceived inability by the court to balance the scales of justice
- Communicates a reticence by the court to impose stiffer penalties

Potential Rewards

- Lessens the burden on jail infrastructure and system resources
- Decreases costs associated with corrections, housing, and logistical requirements
- Extends the reach of the court for a period that exceeds the term of sentence
- Provides the court with the ability to address the multivariate nature of the criminality
 - Discontinued association with selected peers
 - May impose a requirement for the offender to participate in drug and alcohol treatment
 - May impose psychological counseling or anger management treatment
 - Facilitates the ability of the offender to maintain employment
 - Provides a mechanism for restitution through continued employment\

Implementation Strategy

- Police endorsement and recommendation of the deferred sentencing strategy
- Police activism and vigilance in detecting offender violations of sentencing conditions
- Prosecutor agreement and support of deferred sentence imposition
- Probation department concurrence with sentencing parameters and conditions of release
- Community stakeholder concurrence to support the conditions of continued release
- Seamless mechanism for the reporting of violations of the conditions of release