

The Ninth Judicial Circuit Solicitors Office takes a strong position in prosecuting those who would threaten our community and break our laws. We recognize however, that first time offenders of non-violent crimes may sincerely wish to turn their lives around. Those individuals deserve an opportunity for change through the Pretrial Intervention Program. Our program will require those who participate to repay the victim and the community for their criminal activity. This will be accomplished by the participant completing community service, drug screens, counseling or education and by paying restitution (if applicable) to the victim in the criminal charge. Through these activities, PTI participants will gain a better understanding of the judicial system and will have the opportunity to become a more productive and responsible citizen.

In return for participant's completion of all PTI requirements as assigned, successful participants will be eligible to have the record of their criminal arrest destroyed. A clean record can allow a new start towards a responsible and productive life in our community.

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Pre-Trial Intervention Ninth Judicial Circuit



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Ninth Circuit Pre-Trial Intervention General Sessions Court

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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO APPLICANTS OF PTI

YOU MUST APPLY AT THE COUNTY PTI OFFICE WHERE YOUR ARREST OCCURRED

WHAT IS PRE-TRIAL INTERVENTION?

PTI is a Diversionary Program designed for first-time offenders of non-violent crimes. The program allows the defendant to be diverted from court and enter into a program consisting of counseling and guidance, community service work and restitution. Successful completion of the program requirements will allow the defendant's arrest record to be expunged (destroyed). The goal of this program is to give first-time offenders a second chance. **Offenders may participate in this program only once.**

PTI is under the control and supervision of the Office of the Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit.

WHO CAN APPLY?

If you have recently been arrested for the first time for a non-violent crime, you may come to PTI directly through a referral from the Magistrate, Municipal or General Sessions Court.

PTI for an individual is appropriate when:

1. A person is 17 years of age or older or 16 and under if charged as an adult.
2. There is no evidence of significant prior arrests or criminal history.
3. The individual poses no detectable threat to society.
4. The person is unlikely to be involved in further criminal activity.
5. The person is either employed, disabled, or is in school
6. The person is likely to respond quickly to rehabilitative treatment.
7. Justice to the offender and the State will be served by placing the offender in an intervention program instead of the traditional criminal justice process.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

After the Office of the Solicitor has approved your case and a PTI referral has been received at the program, you will be notified by mail of the date and time of your orientation.

The following items must be brought with you at orientation to apply to the program:

- ✓ **\$100. money order or certified check (\$150. if you wish to transfer to another county in South Carolina)**
- ✓ **Recent Picture Identification**
- ✓ **Social Security Card**

At this meeting, an overview of our various program requirements will be presented. We will review information on any matter regarding the pending charge against you and any prior history of criminal activity.

Approximately 30 days from your original orientation/application date, you will be scheduled to appear for a 2nd appearance to obtain your individual requirements for the program. You must bring your \$250. participation fee to this appointment. Failure to appear at the 2nd appointment will result in your file being returned to the court.

When a victim is involved in your charge, a consent form will be sent to him/her to be signed and returned to PTI. A recommendation request will also be issued to the arresting officer. These forms must be received recommending your PTI participation. A negative recommendation may result in your inability to participate in the program. The Solicitor has the final decision to accept or reject your case for diversion.

If rejected, you will be notified in writing, and your case will be returned to court. If your case is accepted, and you complete the program requirements as assigned, the court which handled your case is notified and the charges against you are dismissed. At that time, you are eligible, under the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 17-22-150, to clear your arrest record of the dismissed charges. You will be given detailed instructions regarding Expungement of your record, Should you chose not to complete the requirements of the program, and your case is returned to the appropriate court for prosecution.

The Pre-Trial Intervention Program has worked closely with the courts and law enforcement to establish a program that works for the good of all involved: the accused, the victim and the tax payers. It can provide you with the opportunity to earn a clear record, avoid a possible jail sentence, and help you take steps to improve your life.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Before you can be accepted into the program, you must:

1. Furnish the program complete information on any matter dealing with pending charge(s) against you, your prior history, and your current activities.
2. Agree to make restitution for any losses to the victim in your case.
3. Pay all program fees.
4. Keep all appointments promptly as scheduled for you by PTI personnel.
5. Agree to commit no more crimes.
6. Have had no prior participation in a PTI program.

If you enroll and are accepted into the program, the Solicitor will agree to hold the charges against you from going to trial. As long as you are in the program and completing your requirements, your case will not be returned to court. Before the charges can be dismissed, you must have completed the following requirements:

1. Pay the \$350. PTI program fees (\$100 for application, \$250. for participation)
2. If required, submit to random drug testing.
3. Be employed full time or enrolled in school full time.
4. Actively take part in the program set forth by the case manager. This may include client financed counseling at outside agencies or other educational services.
5. Attend a prison tour when scheduled by the PTI Staff.
6. Remain in the program a minimum of 90 days up to a maximum of 1 year.
7. Pay back the victim of your crime for losses incurred.
8. No new criminal arrests while enrolled in PTI.
9. Remain in the State while the charges are pending against you, unless PTI is notified.

TRANSFERS

Transfers to other counties within the State are available.