

# Mental Health Court

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can apply?

- Individuals with pending criminal charges and/or probation violations. Both Magistrate level and General Sessions level charges are permitted.
- Individuals must have an identifiable mental health illness (depression, anxiety, bipolar affective disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, etc.).
- Individuals must reside in Berkeley County.
- Individuals must be in compliance with Mary Lynn's Law.

### How to apply?

- Applications may be completed by defense attorneys with applicant input.
- Applications may be emailed to the coordinator.
- Applications may be submitted online on the Solicitor's Office webpage.
- Application to the program is free of charge.

### What services are provided

- Mental health counseling
- Employment assistance
- Medication-assisted treatment
- Transportation assistance
- Housing assistance
- Other counseling, as needed

### What are the requirements?

- Attend court sessions
- Submit to random drug and alcohol testing
- Pay all restitution to crime victims, if applicable
- Attend doctor appointments
- Attend counseling appointments

### What happens at the conclusion?

- Upon successful completion in the Magistrate track, all charges are dismissed.
- Upon successful completion in the General Sessions track, the case is completed as successful and supervision is complete.
- Upon unsuccessful completion, the charges become convictions and/or probation is violated and the case returns to court for sentencing.

**For more information, please contact  
Coordinator Debbie Orr at 843.719.4529 or  
orrd@scsolicitor9.org or go to our  
website at [www.scsolicitor9.org](http://www.scsolicitor9.org).**



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## BERKELEY COUNTY

# MENTAL HEALTH COURT



The Berkeley County Mental Health Court provides a cost-effective alternative to traditional prosecution and incarceration of non-violent offenders with mental health illnesses. Crime will be reduced and offenders rehabilitated through intensive court supervision and mental health treatment.

Mental Health Court is available for individuals with pending criminal charges and/or probation violations. There are two tracks of Mental Health Court – Magistrate track and General Sessions track. Entry into the program for the Magistrate track requires a transfer of jurisdiction of the case to Mental Health Court. Entry into the program for the General Sessions track requires a guilty plea to charges and/or probation violations and deferral upon successful completion of the program. Successful completion of the Magistrate track results in the dismissal of charges. Successful completion of the General Sessions track results in completion of supervision from the court and remains a conviction.

Mental Health Court is a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team that includes a judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, treatment, testing, coordinator, probation, and law enforcement. Participants are required to attend court appearances, submit to random drug testing, attend all treatment sessions, and pay restitution to victims.

The goal of Mental Health Court is to rehabilitate and restore mental health to offenders who, but for their disability, might be leading safe, productive lives. By doing so, Mental Health Court reduces recidivism and enhances public safety.

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[www.scsolicitor9.org/alternative-courts.php](http://www.scsolicitor9.org/alternative-courts.php)**