

Project Dawn Court

- Program Eligibility

Targeted defendants are women with open prostitution cases, who have a non-violent record, and history of convictions for prostitution. Defendants are accepted at the discretion of the District Attorney's Office and after a careful review of their case.

- Disposition

When a defendant elects Project Dawn Court, her plea is held in abeyance while she undergoes the program. If the defendant successfully completes the program, the Commonwealth withdraws prosecution and she will graduate without a new conviction.

- Details and Length

Project Dawn seeks to connect non-violent repeat prostitution offenders with therapeutic and reentry services, while attempting to reduce recidivism of prostitution and related crimes. The program provides drug treatment and trauma counseling for abuse (physical, sexual and emotional) that often occurred back into adolescence. Once a defendant enters Project Dawn she must complete four phases of treatment. Specifically, she is required to: 1) stay clean for 30 days; 2) attend 90 days of out-patient services; 3) undergo 120 days of intensive treatment for sexual trauma; and 4) participate in 120 of days of reintegration preparation. Specific services are based upon the results of a Forensic Intensive Recovery (FIR) evaluation. Services include counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder, childhood sexual abuse, drug treatment, and parenting classes. Defendants are required to appear in court monthly (or more if deemed necessary by the Court and Project Dawn team) where her progress is assessed before a judge. Violations of the program's terms result in the defendant facing a series of escalating sanctions. She is also required to restart the whatever phase of the program she was in at the time of the violation. Defendants can complete the program within one year of acceptance.

- Program Completion

Once all four phases have been completed, the defendant graduates the program and their case is dismissed with prejudice.

- Expungement Eligibility

Upon successful completion of Project Dawn, if the defendant remains arrest free for one year, the underlying case may be expunged.