

SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT
Collaborative Courts Descriptions

The collaborative court programs provide adult offenders with options and alternative solutions for their unique situations. All programs aim to reduce recidivism, increase accountable behaviors, improve the quality of life for individuals and their families, and maintain public safety.

Drug Court serves non-violent, non-sexual and non-serious drug-addicted offenders by placing them in treatment in lieu of incarceration. Four drug courts currently operate in the county, located in South Bay, Vista, El Cajon and Downtown. The program lasts a minimum of 18 months, and includes random drug testing, individual counseling sessions, self-help groups, and a softball team.

Individuals who are veterans or active military, whose criminal conduct stemmed from their service in the military, can apply to **Veterans Treatment Court**. This includes veterans who are assessed as having PTSD, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma or substance abuse issues. The program lasts a minimum of 18 months, and includes access to services from Veterans Administration, Veterans Village of San Diego, the Vet Center, as well as the mentorship of fellow veterans. Graduates may petition the court to dismiss their charges upon successful completion of program requirements.

Behavioral Health Court is a minimum 18-month program that targets offenders who are living with a serious mental illness (SMI), such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. The program blends the collaborative court model for reducing recidivism with the assertive community treatment (ACT) model for treating individuals with SMI. Members receive high-quality housing, mental health treatment, and oversight. Criminogenic needs are addressed as part of the treatment plan.

Individuals with a split sentence (part in custody, remainder in the community) attend **Mandatory Supervision Court** to report their progress in their transition from Sheriff's custody, to life in the community under Probation supervision. They are referred to drug treatment, mental health counseling, cognitive-behavioral therapy, employment services, etc.

Reentry Court serves high-risk and high-need individuals with substance abuse and mental health issues, who re-offend while on supervision or are charged with new crimes. The program lasts a minimum of 18 months, and the length depends on the individual's compliance with their treatment plan and the program requirements. Participants experience a phased program that requires them to have stabilized in their recovery, obtain gainful employment and attended required counseling sessions and meetings.