

HOPE Court

HOPE Court is a federal reentry court program that serves individuals who have completed the incarcerative portion of their federal sentence and are under the supervision of U.S. Probation. It is structured to provide participants with an intensive level of support with accountability to increase the likelihood of long-term success. HOPE Court uses a phase-based program, with graduated incentives and swiftly-administered sanctions, to achieve sustainable change.



Established on November 6, 2014



For more information,
please contact
U.S. Probation Department
John O. Pastore Building
2 Exchange Terrace
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 752-7300

<http://www.rip.uscourts.gov>



United States District Court
for the
District of Rhode Island

HOPE Court
**Helping
Offenders
Prepare for Re-
Entry**



What is HOPE Court?

HOPE Court is a **voluntary** alternative approach to supervision of individuals recently released from federal prison that supports sobriety, employment and law abiding lives.

Successful completion of HOPE Court requires **52 weeks of positive behavior** and results in **up to one year off supervised release**, with the approval of the sentencing judge.

At the hour-long HOPE Court sessions held twice a month, the judge speaks to each participant individually about progress and goals. HOPE Court is very different from a regular court session.

HOPE Court works with community partners to link participants with treatment, education and job skills training.

The presiding judicial officer is a U.S. Magistrate Judge, who works with U.S. Probation, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender Office and a local treatment provider.

How can I get accepted?

HOPE Court is selective, not everyone is eligible. Preference is given to individuals at higher risk of re-offending, including those with substance abuse issues, but who are also committed to working with the team to achieve their own goals.

Ask U.S. Probation if HOPE Court is possible for you.

Come and observe a HOPE Court session.

Basic HOPE Court requirements

HOPE Court meets for one hour every other Thursday at 11:30am. All participants are required to attend these sessions, except participants in Phase 4 who attend only once per month.

Participants are required to meet with U.S. Probation and submit to drug testing based upon their needs and the phase of the program.

Participants are required to complete a 12 step cognitive behavioral therapy program, which meets one evening per week.

Participants are expected to work on pursuing their personal goals for employment, education, housing and family connections.

To graduate from HOPE Court, participants must complete 52 "good" weeks and the requirements of each of the four phases.

Benefits of HOPE Court

HOPE Court links participants to services in the community such as job readiness training, sober support groups and volunteer legal assistance.

HOPE Court assists with overcoming challenges such as getting a driver's license, child support and custody issues.

Participants are supported by the team as they pursue their goals.

At graduation, participants earn up to a year off their term of supervision.

HOPE Court graduates said...

"My goals from HOPE Court are quite simple: I want guidance and structure and mercy and, most of all, a year off my probation sentence."

"The HOPE Court program gave me a chance to be a better parent as a father to my children, as well as a good son to my mother and a better big brother to my siblings."

"I received a lot of skills and tools in HOPE Court and MRT that will help guide me in life. And I will always keep them with me, even the ones I don't agree with (LOL)."

"At the end of the day, it has been a long journey for me to be happy and to be actually proud of myself, it is never too late to heal and change who you are."

HOPE Court Team

Patricia A. Sullivan
U.S. Magistrate Judge

Olin W. Thompson
Federal Public Defender Office

Stephen G. Dambruch
U.S. Attorney's Office

Derek Dufresne
U.S. Probation Department

Mary Dixon, MSW, LICSW