

UNITED STATES PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND  
HELPING OFFENDERS PREPARE FOR re-ENTRY (H.O.P.E.) PHASE SYSTEM

Prior to beginning H.O.P.E., every participant who is referred needs to be screened to determine H.O.P.E. eligibility. This will ensure that the perspective participant is sufficiently stable to engage in re-entry services prior to beginning H.O.P.E. An offender who is actively using illicit substances, refusing to participate in treatment/testing and regularly testing positive, would likely need a greater level of intervention/support to develop stability before entering into the program -- such as inpatient treatment. The H.O.P.E. Core team members should consider the following factors before enrollment of a participant in H.O.P.E.:

Pre-Enrollment stabilization period: (Prior to beginning H.O.P.E.)

- Assessment by USPO, including a home/RRC visit to ensure sufficient stability;
- Completion of a substance abuse evaluation;
- Be referred to treatment services as deemed necessary/Court-ordered;
- Submit to random ua's, enrollment in color-code as deemed necessary;
- Complete H.O.P.E. intake application and interview;
- Observe H.O.P.E. courtroom sessions;
- Sign participant agreement;
- Begin the program.

It was decided that the H.O.P.E. program should be able to be completed in a period of twelve (12) months over four (4) phases, each phase consisting of 3 months. (Completion times may vary depending on participant's individual progress, as the H.O.P.E. Court team may deny one week or two weeks of credit towards successful completion of the program when an infraction occurs). It is agreed that the assignments and expectations of each phase should be concrete, clear and applicable to all participants. Each phase should have a specified purpose with distinct, achievable goals that are consistent with the stages of re-entry. The participant will be challenged to accept responsibility for the impact of their behavior on others, and will be provided access to the tools necessary to facilitate and maintain a sober, crime-free lifestyle. Throughout participation in H.O.P.E., the participant will work toward the development of a community-based sober support network. Finally, the participant will prepare a comprehensive relapse prevention/safety plan prior to successful completion from H.O.P.E.

Participants may be moved back a phase only if they procure certification of the prior phase through fraud or other undue means.

If the H.O.P.E. Court team determines that a participant's actions will absolutely preclude the participant from successfully completing the phase until the conduct is rectified (for example, in Phase Four, if the participant tests positive because three months of sobriety are required for successful completion), the participant will be required to attend H.O.P.E. Court sessions but may not be allowed to actively participate in the sessions until the H.O.P.E. Court team determines otherwise.

It is recognized that different levels of treatment will be needed for each participant, and therefore, each phase does not identify a specific level of treatment. Rather, it is suggested that there be a requirement noted in each phase that the participant participate in treatment as directed.

Phases suggested are:

- Phase One: Post-release/Initial Reentry Phase;
- Phase Two: Stabilization;
- Phase Three: Understanding and Taking Responsibility; and
- Phase Four: Successful Completion/Maintenance.

## **PHASE ONE: POST-RELEASE/INITIAL REENTRY PHASE**

### **Goal:**

Participant realizes stable residence, employment, and community/family ties and works toward establishing these supports while continuing to be law-abiding and in compliance with conditions of supervision. Participant will abstain from drug and alcohol use, engage in treatment and stabilize in the appropriate level of treatment services. During this phase, the participant will work toward identifying barriers to success and begin eliminating those barriers.

### **Expectations:**

- Participate in substance abuse treatment as deemed necessary and attend all sessions;
- Complete a mental health screening, if deemed necessary, and participate in all mental health treatment as deemed necessary;
- Follow prescribed treatment plan which may include community support groups, and submit verification;
- Begin a life skills, employment or education program as directed;
- Complete application for entitlement benefits (HealthsourceRI, etc.) if eligible;
- Identify community supports with assistance of USPO;
- Comply with all supervision conditions;
- Complete one written assignment.

### **Meetings/testing:**

- 2 meetings with Probation/Court per week, broken down as follows;
  - Monday and Thursday reporting schedule;
  - Monday meeting with PO, UA obtained;
  - Thursday H.O.P.E. Court appearance (bi-weekly), UA optional; Probation Office day-reporting (bi-weekly);
- As noted above, 2 UAs per week, or as deemed necessary.

### **Written/Oral Assignment:**

**How has my criminal activity affected my life and what goals do I have for participation in the H.O.P.E. program?**

## **PHASE TWO: STABILIZATION**

### **Goal:**

Participant demonstrates a commitment to living a substance free, law-abiding lifestyle through program compliance and continued commitment to goals. Begin to identify and understand adverse consequences of drug/alcohol use as well as cognitive distortions. Become involved in a life skills, educational or employment program, or secure a job. Commence MRT program and coordinate it with substance abuse treatment as appropriate.

### **Expectations:**

- Participate in substance abuse treatment as deemed necessary and attend all sessions;
- Follow prescribed treatment plan which may include community support groups, and submit verification;
- Continue to participate in a life skills, employment or education program as directed;
- Comply with all supervision conditions;
- Commence MRT program
- Complete one written assignment.

**Meetings/testing:**

- 1 meeting per week with Probation/Court which may include field visits;
- H.O.P.E. Court appearance (bi-weekly);
- Weekly reporting schedule;
  - Every other week meeting with PO, UA obtained;
  - Every other Thursday H.O.P.E. Court appearance, UA option;
  - Weekly MRT attendance
  - Office/field contact, UA option.
- 1 UA per week, or as deemed necessary.

**Written/Oral Assignment:**

**What tools and skills have I developed to maintain my sobriety/crime-free lifestyle and how do I plan to use those tools to strengthen my recovery during supervision and beyond?**

**PHASE THREE: UNDERSTANDING AND TAKING RESPONSIBILITY**

**Goal:**

Develop a pro-social support network to rely upon in making life decisions and dealing with life stress. Complete life skills, employment or educational program. Secure employment. Complete MRT program and address life issues such as family/children, finances, welfare, education, etc.

**Expectations:**

- Participate in substance abuse treatment as deemed necessary and attend all sessions;
- Follow prescribed treatment plan which may include community support groups, and submit verification;
- Complete a life skills, employment or education program;
- Maintain sobriety;
- Comply with all supervision conditions;
- Complete MRT program;
- Complete one written assignment.

**Meetings/testing:**

- Weekly meeting with Probation if unemployed, otherwise as needed;
- H.O.P.E. Court appearances (biweekly);
- Enrollment in Color Code Program – reduced testing.

**Written/Oral Assignment:**

In collaboration with treatment providers and pro-social support system, complete a writing assignment addressing the following topic:

**How has my drug use/criminal lifestyle affected the significant others in my life or the community?**

**PHASE FOUR: SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION/MAINTENANCE**

**Goal:**

Develop a comprehensive relapse prevention/safety plan and identify long-term recovery needs. Take action.

**Expectations:**

- Participate in substance abuse treatment as deemed necessary and attend all sessions;
- Follow prescribed treatment plan which may include community support groups, and submit verification;
- Maintain employment/3 months of productive activity;
- Maintain 90 days sobriety;
- Comply with all supervision conditions;
- Complete an approved, written relapse prevention/safety plan;
- Complete a H.O.P.E. exit interview.

**Meetings/testing:**

- Meetings with Probation as deemed necessary;
- H.O.P.E. Court appearances (monthly);
- Enrollment in Color Code Program – reduced testing.

**Written Assignment:**

In collaboration with your support network, complete an Action Plan, to be reviewed by the H.O.P.E. Core Team, which outlines future goals and plans to maintain a responsible, sober, law-abiding lifestyle.

**Action Plan**

**Noncompliant acts resulting in no time credit towards successful completion of phase (including but not limited to):**

- Unexcused absences from H.O.P.E. Court sessions;
- Unexcused absences from PO/office meetings or any scheduled treatment session;
- Positive alcohol/drug screens;
- Missed alcohol/drug screens;
- Attempt or submission of adulterated urinalysis;
- Refusal to submit urinalysis/stalls;
- Refusal or failure to comply with referral for increased/intensified treatment;
- Failure to maintain employment, (participant responsibility);
- Failure to participate in life skills, employment or education program as directed;
- Disruptive or disrespectful behavior;
- Failure to comply with self-help group attendance;
- Failure to complete written assignments;
- Failure to complete a sanction;
- New arrest;
- Failure to comply with court-ordered financial obligations if deemed able;
- Other violation of supervision condition or Court order.

**Sanctions (including but not limited to):**

- Increased reporting;
- Writing assignments;
- Judicial reprimand;
- Increased H.O.P.E. Court attendance;
- Increase frequency of meetings with Probation;
- Reduction in phase;
- Increased frequency of UA collection;
- Use of alternative drug testing procedure;
- Curfew;

- Electronic monitoring;
- CCC placement;
- Incarceration of varying length (No more than 3 days per violation).

**Rewards:**

- Judicial praise;
- Phase successful completion certificates presented upon completion and Successful Completion certificate upon program completion;
- Reduction of reporting requirements;
- Reduction of drug testing;
- Other rewards to be determined by the Court.
- One (1) year supervision reduction;