



RENTON MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY COURT

Collaborate • Support • Restore

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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HOW OFTEN WILL I HAVE TO APPEAR FOR COURT?

Participants are initially required to attend court weekly. Your court appearances may become less and less frequent so long as you are in compliance with your program conditions. You'll be expected to maintain weekly contact with your Case Manager throughout the program.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR MY CASE TO BE DISMISSED?

Most Community Court contracts are designed to last for 12 months. However, you may be eligible for early dismissal if you've completed all your required conditions.

CAN COMMUNITY COURT HELP ME FIND A JOB OR GET INTO HOUSING?

Yes, we work with several community agencies that can assist with finding job training programs, applying for jobs, or finding a housing option that fits your needs.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I RECEIVE NEW CRIMINAL CHARGES, RELAPSE, OR VIOLATE CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY COURT?

We make best efforts to work with participants to address relapse or other violations within the program. We use progressive sanctions such as community service and essays, and termination from the program generally only occurs when a participant has failed to appear or engage with services for an extended period of time or has multiple new charges.

DO I HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION TODAY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

Community Court is most effective when begun soon after the date of the criminal charge. If you need more time to think about it, talk with your Public Defender, who can communicate your request with the Prosecutor.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DECIDE NOT TO JOIN COMMUNITY COURT?

If you decide not to participate, your case will be handled on the traditional court track, and you will be expected to appear for your pretrial hearing as scheduled. You will still have the option of having a jury trial or resolving your case through a plea deal.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY COURT?

Community court is a non-traditional, therapeutic approach that works to provide practical, targeted solutions rather than traditional punishment in cases involving low level offenses.

The two most fundamental rules of Community Court are that you show up and you tell the truth. Participants who commit to these two requirements are most likely to be successful in the program, and we will work hard to support you in overcoming challenges and connecting with needed resources.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The City Prosecutor determines who is eligible for Community Court, and typically your Public Defender will let you know at the time of your arraignment hearing if you qualify.

Common eligible charges include:

- Theft 3
- Criminal Trespass
- Possession of Stolen Property
- Disorderly Conduct
- Resisting Arrest
- False Statement to a Public Servant

HOW DO I JOIN?

If you're interested in Community Court, ask your attorney to get you scheduled for an observation hearing.

Once you've observed a hearing, you'll complete a risk and needs assessment with a Case Manager.

Next, the Public Defender and Prosecutor will create a personalized contract for your case (called a Stipulated Order of Continuance). If you agree to the plan and its conditions, you'll be formally admitted into Community Court.

WHEN AND WHERE?

Community Court & the Virtual Resource Center (VRC) are held **most Thursdays**. Participants are welcome to appear either in-person or via Zoom.

Community Court (10:30am):

www.zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 533 352 1935

Password: Renton

Virtual Resource Center (12:30 – 1:30pm):

www.zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 865 251 6559

Passcode: Public01

In person:

Renton Municipal Court

1055 South Grady Way

Renton, WA 98057

For more info, contact our Case Managers at
425-430-6543 or ccss@rentonwa.gov.

