

Removing Barriers

Outreach court is designed to work with individuals who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused. The program receives referrals directly from community providers. This allows individuals engaged with community providers an opportunity to resolve outstanding misdemeanor cases and warrants.



Alternative Resolutions

In lieu of custody, fines, and fees, participants may engage in various activities and services aimed at improving their quality of life. Some examples are:

- Life skills activities
- Literacy courses
- Counseling
- Substance use treatment
- Searching for employment
- Working with housing programs

The Court acknowledges these efforts and uses that recognition to satisfy case obligations.

Outreach Court

Is a collaboration among:

- **Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court**
- **Office of the District Attorney**
- **Law Offices of the Public Defender**
- **The Private Defense Bar**
- **Community Providers**

Artwork Provided by
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Outreach Court

**Bernalillo County
Metropolitan Court**



A progressive program that
allows alternative resolutions

How Does Outreach Court Work?

Outreach Court is unique among other specialty courts as it is designed to work with individuals who are engaged with community providers and give those individuals an opportunity to resolve outstanding misdemeanor cases and warrants.

Participants will not be required to appear before the court during their participation with the program.

Each participant will have an attorney appointed to them free of charge. This is accomplished through a partnership with the Law Offices of the Public Defender.

The participant will continue to work with their community provider to design a plan to move towards self-sufficiency.

Upon completion of the program, commencement ceremonies will be held at provider locations throughout the community.

How Can An Individual Get Referred to Outreach Court?

The individual's community provider will submit a **Referral Form** on their behalf. The Referral is then reviewed to determine if the case is eligible for Outreach Court.

If the case is approved for participation, court staff will notify all involved parties of the participant's acceptance into the program. If not eligible, the case will remain on the original assigned judge's docket.

Outreach Court Eligibility

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must be considered unhoused or precariously housed
- Cannot have outstanding warrants in other counties
- Cannot have been convicted of a violent felony in the past 7 years
- DWI cases and felony cases are not eligible for Outreach Court
- Must be a misdemeanor case
- Must be within Bernalillo County

If Eligible

The case will be set for review in 30-45 days. The client's appearance will not be required at this hearing.

The community provider will submit an **Advocacy Letter** outlining their client's participation. The Outreach Court team will review the **Advocacy** letter and, if appropriate, an Order of Dismissal and Closure will be entered into the case.

How Do I Learn More?

Call the Outreach Court Specialist:

Office: 505.841.8142

Visit our website:

<https://metro.nmcourts.gov/services-programs/outreach-court/>

