

Outreach Court

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

Asra Elliott, Presiding Judge

Amber Griego, Behavioral Health Division Director

Irina Akdigitova, Program/Project Specialist



Removing Barriers

Outreach Court enables unhoused and precariously housed individuals who are actively engaged in the program to address their outstanding legal obligations, freeing them to reclaim their lives and return to the community as valued members.

Alternative Resolutions

In lieu of custody, fines, and fees for most misdemeanor charges, participants may engage in life skills activities, substance use group meetings, literacy classes, and training, or search for employment, counseling, and programming aimed at improving their situations under the guidance of their community provider.

Outreach Court

Is a collaborative effort among:

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

Office of the District Attorney

Law Offices of the Public Defender

The Private Defense Bar

Community Providers

Eligibility

- Persons must be considered unhoused or precariously housed
- Must be 18 years and older (juvenile cases can be considered for Outreach Court as long as the participant is currently over 18)
- Cases can be in active warrant status and/or have unresolved fines and fees
- Domestic violence cases are considered on a case-by-case basis

Ineligible cases:

- Felonies
- The person has been convicted of a violent felony within the last 7 years
- DWI
- Cases outside of Bernalillo County
- The person has outstanding warrants in another county

Referral Process

- Prospective participants are referred by their community provider to Outreach Court
- Referrals can be sent via email, fax, or through our website
- Once we receive a referral, our Outreach Court Specialist will process the referral to locate any eligible cases
- Outreach Court Specialist will communicate directly with the provider to inform them about eligibility and next steps

Program Process

Provider submits a **Referral Form**.

Program will notify
Provider of client's
eligibility

*If ineligible case stays
with assigned Judge's
docket*

If Eligible

Case is set for review in 30-45 days, and the participant's appearance is not required.

Project Specialist will reach out to Community Provider for an **Advocacy Letter** outlining client's participation

Outreach Court Team will review the **Advocacy Letter** and if appropriate, an Order of Dismissal or Closure will be entered and obligations in the case are resolved

Outreach Court is not punitive

If the provider losses contact with the participant

Review hearing will be
reset to give Attorney
and provider a chance
to make contact

If still unsuccessful

Case will get set on
Judge Elliott's formal
docket with formal
notice sent to client

If still unsuccessful

Case will get set back
on original judge's
docket

*If the case was
originally in warrant
status, the warrant
may be reactivated



For more information, please contact

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Or
<https://metro.nmcourts.gov/bernalillo-county-metropolitan-court/specialty-courts/outreach-court>

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