

Outreach Court Provider FAQs

Q: What is Outreach Court?

A: Outreach is a progressive program, allowing alternative resolutions in lieu of custody, fines, and fees for most misdemeanor charges.

Q: Who does Outreach Court serve?

A: Community members who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused. These community members are taking steps to improve themselves, and may have a situation where a pending court case and/or warrant may be preventing progress. This program seeks to take these legal barriers away.

Q: I have a client that I think might be eligible. How do I start the process?

A: Complete and submit an Outreach Court Referral Form

Q: What happens after I send the referral?

A: We check to see if your client is eligible. If they are, then their case(s) will be transferred to Judge Elliott. Any warrants or hearings related to the case are canceled. You will be notified if the referral was accepted or declined and the reason. We will set a Meaningful Review Hearing 30-45 days out.

Q: What would make someone ineligible for Outreach Court?

A: We cannot take DWI cases due to statutory requirements. We also cannot accept any clients who have been convicted of a serious violent offense (SVO) within the last 7 years. A list of disqualifying violent offenses are available on the Outreach Court website. Any cases with alleged victims, such as a domestic violence case or a case involving an officer victim, needs prior approval by the District Attorney's office before being accepted into Outreach Court.

Q: What if I am unsure if my client is eligible?

A: Call us to discuss or go ahead and submit Referral and ROI forms on behalf of your client. The Meaningful Review Team always endeavors to make the program as inclusionary as possible. If there is a problem with eligibility, we will let you know as soon as possible, as well as provide information that will be useful in getting your client's case resolved.

Q: How will I know if my client has been accepted?

A: After receipt of the Outreach Court Referral Form and verification of eligibility, Irina will contact you to advise of the status.

Q: Can my client participate if they have a traffic warrant that they got as a juvenile?

A: Absolutely. Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court handles all juvenile traffic warrants, so they would be eligible to participate in the Outreach Court Program.

Q: Do I and/or my client need to go to the Meaningful Review Hearing?

A: No. All that we request is that you write an Advocacy Letter several days prior to the Meaningful Review Hearing to update the Outreach Court on the client's progress. Email the Advocacy Letter to metriaa@nmcourts.gov.

Q: What does my client need to do to successfully complete Outreach Court?

A: The client must follow through with what you are asking them to achieve. Let us know in the Advocacy Letter how that is progressing.

Q: What forms do I need to submit to begin the referral process?

A: All current forms can be found on our website at <https://metro.nmcourts.gov/services-programs/outreach-court/> and are:

1. The Outreach Court Referral Form
2. The Advocacy Letter
(This is needed before the client's Meaningful Review, set 30-45 days from referral)

Q: Does the client need to go to the Court for this case?

A: Not during participation in Outreach Court. Commencement Ceremonies will be held in various Community Provider locations.

Q: What is a Commencement Ceremony?

A: Upon Completion of Outreach Court we will hold a ceremony to recognize the accomplishments of each participant and provide them with closure paperwork for their case.