



PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION

A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN THE LANCASTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND SECONDCHANCE PA



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Pathways to Recovery Drug and Alcohol Diversion Program?

The Lancaster County District Attorney's Office partnered with SecondChance PA to create a voluntary program designed to help people with addiction challenges get the help they need to have a hopeful, successful life and to avoid trial and a criminal record. Each person enrolling in the program will be required to meet with a Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS), undergo a level-of-care assessment, follow through with all recommendations, perform community service, undergo random drug and/or alcohol testing and pay any restitution owed.

Who can enter the Pathways to Recovery Drug and Alcohol Diversion Program?

The District Attorney determines who is eligible to participate in the Pathways to Recovery Drug and Alcohol Diversion Program. The District Attorney's Office will review the unique circumstances of your case including your current charges and prior criminal history to determine your eligibility for diversion. You must appear at your preliminary hearing before the District Court Judge to find out if you are eligible to participate in the program.

How do I enroll in the Pathways to Recovery Drug and Alcohol Diversion Program?

If you are eligible, you will be asked to sign a Program Agreement Form at the time of your preliminary hearing acknowledging that you fully understand the diversion program and agree to abide by the terms and conditions. You must call SecondChance PA at **717-287-8027** within 72 hours of your preliminary hearing to schedule an appointment with a Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS). A program fee of \$100 is due at your first meeting with the CRS.

What happens if I fail a drug and/or alcohol test?

Failure to pass the 3 required random drug tests will immediately disqualify you from the diversion program and your case will move forward with prosecution.

Will I have to pay for drug and alcohol treatment?

In many cases treatment is covered by health insurance benefits. Depending on the type of insurance coverage you have, if any, you may incur out of pocket costs related to treatment, however, many insurance plans cover substance use disorder treatment in full. If you do not have health insurance, the CRS will assist you in utilizing emergency public funding.

What happens if I don't complete all the requirements?

All requirements of the Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Diversion Program must be completed within 6 months to avoid criminal prosecution. If you do not complete the program, your case will be forwarded to the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas for further prosecution. You will receive a notice of formal arraignment from the Magisterial District Judge's office, and you must appear at the Lancaster County Courthouse at 50 N. Duke Street on the date and time specified on the notice. Failure to appear at your formal arraignment will result in a warrant for your arrest.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PROVIDE THE MDJ'S OFFICE AND YOUR CRS WITH UPDATED ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

What if I do not want to participate in the program?

This Program is voluntary, and you have the option of not participating. If you choose not to participate, your case will proceed with prosecution. A conviction will result in a sentence by the Court, possible fines and court costs and a criminal record.

If I complete the program, am I eligible to have my charges expunged?

Completion of the program will result in the dismissal of the charges against you. You are then able to have your charges expunged, or erased, from your record. You can seek the assistance of an attorney or visit the Self-Help Center on the first floor of the Lancaster County Courthouse at 50 N. Duke Street or the Lancaster County website/Self Help Center.