



**South Carolina Reentry
Program
Re Entering Able to Lead**

Modified July 11, 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission	3
Goals	3
Program Description	3
Eligibility	4
Structure	4
Measuring Progress	5
Incentives	5
Sanctions	6
Overview and Requirement of Stages	7
Stage One: CBT and Judicial Intervention	7
Stage Two: Supervision Responsibility and Judicial Intervention	9
Post-graduation Requirements	10
Termination	10
Policy on Missed Drug Tests, Appointments, and Groups	10

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the District of South Carolina Reentry Program (R.E.A.L.) to provide high-risk participants improved chances of avoiding reoffending while increasing the likelihood of successfully completing supervision. This will be accomplished through combining regular supervision strategies, structured cognitive behavioral therapy, and regular interaction with a judicial officer.

Goals

1. Enhance community safety
2. Reduce substance abuse and related criminal activity
3. Provide resources and support to assist participants
4. Reward positive life changes while maintaining accountability for negative conduct.
5. Reduce re-arrest, technical violations, and ultimately recidivism.

Program Description

The Reentry Program is a supervised, comprehensive program for individuals under federal post-conviction supervision. The program combines the efforts of the U.S. District Court, U.S. Probation Office, and treatment providers. The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Federal Public Defender's Office will also play a vital role in the program. Jurisdiction of your case will be transferred temporarily to a REAL Program judge.

This program involves regular court appearances, community supervision, cognitive behavioral therapy, substance abuse/mental health treatment as necessary and pro-social community activities. The program is designed to include two components, each component shall span at least one year, based on each participant's progress. Each individual must be willing to take part in all program components. Participants, who successfully complete the Reentry Program, will be eligible for early termination of their supervision. The amount of time off the term of supervision shall be determined by the Sentencing Judge, but shall be no less

than one (1) year.

Eligibility

A) Screening: The U.S. Probation Office will oversee all potential participants based on their assessed risk/needs and adjustment to community supervision. Referrals will be made via email to the presiding Reentry Program Judge for approval. The Federal Public Defenders Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office shall also be included on the email referral. Referrals shall include a copy of the Pre-Sentence Report and a brief narrative summarizing the basis of the referral (include transportation, violations, court order, etc).

B) Criteria:

- Post-Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA) scores of *Moderate* or *High*. (NOTE: *Low/Moderate* will be considered based on probation officer recommendation)
- At least 24 months of supervised release remaining is preferred
- Participation is upon order of the Court and recommendation of the U.S. Probation Office.
- Complete any assessments as referred by U.S. Probation Office
- Jurisdiction must be in the District of South Carolina

C) Ineligibility

- Participants with current or prior sex offense convictions
- Significant mental health conditions that require ongoing treatment

Structure

The Reentry Program is a two stage program designed to be completed in a period of no less than 24 months. The first stage (12 months) is characterized by active participation in a cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) group as well as frequent judicial intervention hearings. CBT is a structured treatment program that focuses

on decision making and problem solving. The second stage (12 months) of the program focuses on the individual's adjustment to supervision, developing more positive social networks and activities, as well as periodic judicial intervention hearing attendance.

Participants will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of each CBT lesson and provide examples of how they have applied the lessons in daily situations they encounter. These lessons will encourage participants to take responsibility for their actions, develop an understanding of their criminal behavior patterns, and the impact of their behavior on their self, family and community.

Finally, the participant will prepare and present a check list of short and long term goals prior to graduation from Reentry Program.

Measuring Progress

Participation will last for no less than a total of 24 months of satisfactory performance. The 24 months need not be consecutive. During stage one (1), the Reentry Program Judge will award one credit per week of satisfactory performance. While participating in a CBT program, a participant is only eligible to earn credit for attendance to the weekly CBT class. No credit shall be given for the absence or cancellation of a CBT class. Upon completion of a CBT program, credit will be based on weekly compliance with conditions of supervision and program rules. Once the individual has earned a total of 52 credits, their case will be reviewed for placement into Phase 2 of the program.

Incentives

- Reduced supervision upon successful completion of Reentry Program
- Public acknowledgement of success by the Court
- Promotion certificates at each step and graduation
- Graduation reception
- May also include other items as deemed appropriate by the court.

*The above lists possibilities of incentives and is not inclusive.

Sanctions

Consistent with the programs mission and goals, all noncompliant actions, missed meetings, missed lessons, etc. will be individually addressed with positive outcomes in mind. When deemed appropriate and in accordance with the district's noncompliance policy, sanctions may be administered to address noncompliant behavior. The Reentry Program Judge shall have the authority to impose any sanction(s) deemed appropriate. These sanctions/actions may consist of any of the following:

- No credit given toward 52-week program total for any period in which performance is unsatisfactory
- Judicial reprimand
- Curfew
- Geographic and association restrictions
- Community Service requirement
- Location monitoring
- Placement in a Residential Reentry Center
- Custody period
- Referral to the district court for revocation of supervised release, imprisonment, or suspension from the program
- Termination from the Re-entry Program

*The Court reserves discretion on imposing sanctions.

OVERVIEW OF STAGES

STAGE ONE: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Judicial Intervention

Time Period:

The individual must earn a total of 52 credits to be consider for Phase 2; a minimum of 12 months.

Goals:

Develop an understanding of triggers leading to criminal behavior and factors that influence repeat criminal behavior. Acquire tools that serve as a foundation for living a life free of criminal activity.

Expectations:

- Attend weekly Cognitive Behavioral Therapy related to criminal behavior, weekly, or as directed, and provide verification of attendance. Additional substance abuse and/or mental health treatment may be required if deemed necessary by the Reentry Program Judge.
- Attend monthly Judicial Intervention hearings with judicial officer, U.S. Probation Officer, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Assistant Federal Public Defender and report on lessons learned and how they have been employed during the previous weeks.
- Obtain and maintain lawful employment, unless otherwise excused.
- Comply with all supervision conditions.
- Complete other goals as directed.
- Meetings with the probation officer as directed.
- Attend additional Judicial Intervention hearings if required.

*There may be necessary activities occurring outside normal reentry Court days and times.

Minimum Requirements for Completion of Stage One:

- At least 52 credit points issued by the Reentry Program Judge, completion of CBT or other approved treatment program, and minimal noncompliance issues.
- Stable living arrangement
- Must be lawfully employed unless otherwise excused
- Develop a recidivism prevention written plan addressing long-term strategies for living free of criminal activity.
- Advancement to Phase 2 may be delayed by the REAL Program Judge, should the individual have criminal charges pending in Federal, State, or local court or pending violations of their supervision.

STAGE TWO: Supervision Adjustment and Judicial Intervention

Time Period:

Comply with conditions of supervision for a period of at least 12 months.

Goals:

Demonstrate a commitment to abiding by the conditions of supervision and being a productive member of the community. Begin to identify and understand negative impact of behaviors on self, family, and community, and to take responsibility for same in a life skills, educational or employment program, and obtain and maintain employment.

Expectations:

- Continue with responsible supervision plan under regular supervision. Discuss skills and use of skills with U.S. Probation Officer.
- Attend quarterly Judicial Intervention hearings as instructed and report progress to the court.
- Obtain and maintain lawful employment, unless otherwise excused.
- Comply with all supervision conditions.
- Meet with the probation officer as directed.
- Complete other goals, as directed.

Minimum Requirements for Completion of Stage Two:

- At least 12 months positive supervision adjustment, satisfactory treatment progress and minimal noncompliance issues.
- Stable living arrangement
- Must be lawfully employed unless otherwise excused
- Prepare and present a short term and long term goals plan.

- Graduation may be delayed by the REAL Program Judge should the individual have pending criminal charges in Federal, State, or local court or pending violations or pending violations of their supervision..

Post-graduation Requirements

- Upon successful completion of Stage Two, the individual will be complete with the Re-Entry Program. At that time, the Re-Entry Program team may recommend early termination to the Sentencing Judge. The amount of time off the term of supervision shall be determined by the Sentencing Judge. If participation in the REAL Program is ordered by the Sentencing Judge due to a violation(s) of the individual's current term of supervised release or probation, the violation(s) may be dismissed by the Sentencing Judge.
- Should the individual have time remaining on their supervision, they shall continue to comply with the conditions of their supervision until their release from supervision.

Termination

All high severity and/or reoccurring non-compliance will be staffed with the Reentry Court team to determine if the conduct warrants termination.

An example of high severity non-compliance may include, but is not limited to, new felonious criminal conduct, absconding from supervision, or failure to appear for Judicial Intervention hearings. Reoccurring non-compliance may include but is not limited to continual failure to appear for group sessions and appointments, habitual misdemeanor criminal conduct, or the continued use of illegal substances.

Policy on missed groups, individual appointments, and drug tests

It is required that every participant notify their probation officer immediately but no longer than 24 hours after any missed treatment groups, individual appointments, or drug tests.

All unexcused absences will be staffed by the Reentry Court Judge and the U.S. Probation Officer for appropriate action.