

EFFECTIVE OUTCOME JUDGING



1. ESTABLISH AN OUTCOME FOCUS

- a. Shift courtroom focus from case processing to case outcome. Have a conversation with each defendant/participant to determine how to proceed with the case.
- b. Establish the expectation with lawyers, court staff, and participants that you will be having a conversation with each defendant/participant that may impact the outcome of the case.
- c. Develop resources/alternatives that you can access depending on the circumstances of the case and list those resources on the back of this card.



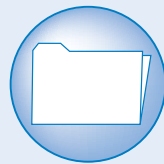
2. CONVERSATION WITH DEFENDANT/PARTICIPANT

The purpose of the conversation is to identify core issues such as drug use, mental illness, lack of life skills, family issues, violence/abuse that might impact long-term effective outcomes.

Questions:

Look every defendant in the eyes and ask the following questions:

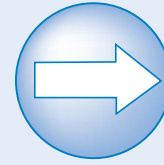
- a. Do you have any special problems such as substance abuse, homelessness, or mental illness that I should know about with regard to this case?
- b. Does anyone in your family or with whom you live have issues with alcohol or other drugs or mental health?
- c. Do you have a case manager, counselor, therapist, or psychiatrist in the community? If so, when will you see this person next?
- d. Do you have a guardian, conservator, or payee?
- e. Was there another person physically harmed or property damaged in this case and, if so, what was the damage?



3. SEEK PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

If you believe, based on the answers to your questions and all of the other information available to you, that there is alcohol or other drug use, mental illness, lack of life skills, family issues, violence/abuse in this case, then consider getting a professional assessment.

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4. CREATE A ROAD MAP

In consultation with attorneys and the defendant/participant establish a "road map" based on the information available to you and the professional assessment (if available).

- a. If there are alcohol or other drug issues with the defendant, and a system of monitoring the results, establish a schedule of alcohol or drug testing.
- b. If there are mental health issues, establish/coordinate with community treatment.
- c. If there are mental health or alcohol or other drug issues in the home or family, coordinate with a community treatment provider.
- d. If there is a case manager, counselor, therapist or psychiatrist put that information in the file and have notification sent to this person of actions you are taking requesting his or her input/participation, if appropriate.
- e. If there is a guardian, conservator or payee, put that information in the file and have notification sent to this person of actions you are taking requesting his or her input/participation, if appropriate.
- f. If there is a victim in this case, make sure that restitution/meeting the needs of the victim are considered in your plan.
- g. When appropriate, move defendant/participant into treatment as quickly as possible.
- h. Establish compliance mechanisms for court orders and dispositions.
- i. Schedule a hearing, if possible, to have the defendant appear again within 30 days with reports on what you have ordered.
- j. Communicate your initial goals to participant, advocates and others in the courtroom.

