



## Behavioral Health Docket Program Structure

A Behavioral Health Docket program should be structured so that participants progress through phases which may include:

- orientation
- stabilization
- community reintegration
- maintenance
- successful completion and transition out of the program

## Required Training

Approval to establish a behavioral health docket follows the required Virginia Behavioral Health Docket application process. This includes completing the required training, **Developing a Mental Health Court: An Interdisciplinary Curriculum (CSG)** facilitated by request.

<https://youtu.be/nSy-uy8iMFo>



## How does it work, and what are the benefits?

Through voluntary admission, eligible defendants are invited to participate in the Behavioral Health Dockets following a specialized screening and assessment. For those who submit to the terms and conditions of community-based supervision, a team of program and treatment professionals work together to develop service plans and supervise participants.

Preliminary research demonstrates that Behavioral Health Docket participants tend to have lower rates of criminal activity and increased linkages to treatment services when compared to defendants with mental illness who go through the traditional court system.

## Key Statistics

Percent of people in state and federal prisons who have been diagnosed with a mental illness: 37% +  
In locally-run jails: 44% +

Number of people experiencing "serious psychological distress" in jails: 1 in 4 +

Percent of people in federal prisons who reported not receiving any mental health care while incarcerated: 66% +

Portion of people jailed 3+ times within a year who report having a moderate or serious mental illness: 27% +

## Application Process

### According to Rule 1:25 Specialty Dockets <sup>1</sup>:

These are specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's circuit and district court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment, supervision, and remediation integral to case disposition.

**Authorization Process** - A circuit or district court which intends to establish one or more types of these recognized specialty dockets must petition the Supreme Court of Virginia for authorization before beginning operation of a specialty docket, or in the instance of an existing specialty docket, continuing its operation.

## Application

[https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/programs/bhd/forms/bhd\\_application.pdf](https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/programs/bhd/forms/bhd_application.pdf)

## More Information

More information about Behavioral Health Dockets can be found at the following link, including:

- BHD Standards
- Application Review Checklist
- Behavioral Health Docket Directory
- Behavioral Health Docket Reports

<https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/programs/bhd/home.html>