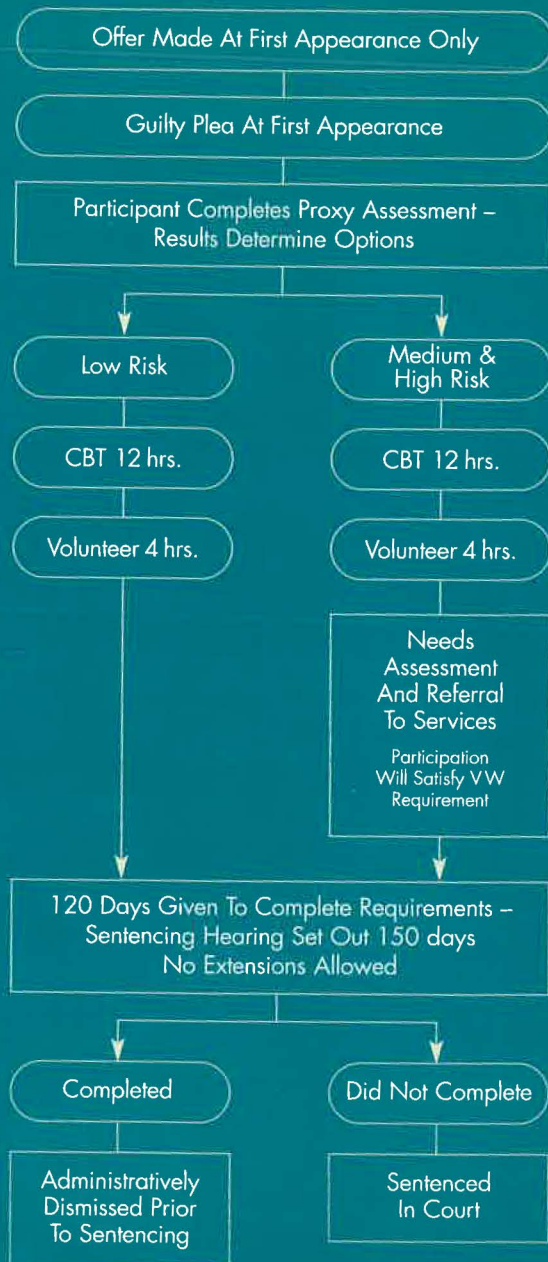


## the CJI process



## district attorney office locations

San Diego – Hall of Justice  
330 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 531-4040

North County Branch – Vista Courthouse  
325 S. Melrose Dr., Ste. 5000, Vista, CA 92083  
(760) 806-4004

East County Branch – El Cajon Courthouse  
250 Main St., 5th Floor, El Cajon, CA 92020  
(619) 441-4588

South Bay Branch  
333 H St., Ste. 4000, Chula Vista, CA 91910  
(619) 498-5650

Juvenile Division – Juvenile Courthouse  
2851 Meadowlark Dr., San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 694-4250



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## DISTRICT ATTORNEY COMMUNITY JUSTICE INITIATIVE



**know your options  
prior to sentencing**



**San Diego County  
District Attorney**



## A Message from the District Attorney

*I believe in advancing public safety through smart, fair and equal criminal justice.*

*That's why the District Attorney's Office brings innovative solutions to complex public safety issues that go beyond a one-size-fits-all mentality.*

*The DA's Criminal Justice Initiative is a common sense program that holds certain individuals charged with a crime accountable for their actions, but steers them away from incarceration and onto a healthy path as contributing members to our community.*

*It provides a second chance to individuals facing low-level offenses and builds safer communities.*

*The program isn't for every person charged with a crime, but for those who are eligible, it can help turn their lives around.*



**Summer Stephan**  
District Attorney,  
San Diego County

## The San Diego County District Attorney Community Justice Initiative (DA CJJ)

The DA CJJ provides those charged with certain low-level offenses the opportunity to earn a dismissal of their case upon successfully completing a 12-hour Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) class and 4 hours of volunteer work (VW).

The DA CJJ uses evidence-based practices and restorative justice principles to hold those charged with eligible crimes accountable, yet give them the opportunity to address their decision making and move forward without a record of a criminal conviction. CBT is a therapeutic approach that attempts to help individuals identify and change beliefs, thoughts and patterns that contribute to problematic behaviors. CBT programs emphasize individual accountability and attempt to help individuals understand their thinking processes and the impacts of the choices they make.

### Goals

- Reduce recidivism by addressing the root cause of the participant's behavior
- Support the efficient use of resources by reducing the number of court hearings and the time police officers spend in court hearings
- Help lower incarceration levels by providing an opportunity for early intervention
- Allow individuals charged with eligible crimes a chance to avoid a criminal conviction and further involvement with the justice system
- Connect individuals to the community-based organizations that can best provide services and address specific needs

The DA CJJ will primarily be available to those facing misdemeanor charges. However, individuals with certain criminal histories may be excluded. The District Attorney maintains sole discretion to determine eligibility. If you

believe you are eligible for this program, you should consult with your attorney. Program requirements and service availability are subject to change.

### How Does It Work?

- Those who are eligible will receive an offer to participate in the DA CJJ. If the offer is accepted, the participant will plead guilty and sentencing will be set out 150 days. If rejected, the case will proceed as normal
- Participants must complete a 12-hour CBT class through the designated provider and complete 4 hours of volunteer work at any non-profit organization
- Participants may be offered the opportunity to satisfy the required 4 hours of volunteer work by participating in a needs assessment that will further link them to needed services and resources. Some of the possible service referrals may include: substance use disorder treatment, mental health services, housing services, employment counseling/training, clothing, toiletries, food, education, transportation and mentoring
- Participants will have 120 days to complete the program requirements. If all requirements are completed, they will not be required to return to court for their sentencing hearing. Their case will be dismissed prior to the 150 day return date
- The participant will pay a fee directly to the CBT program provider. The fee may be reduced subject to the participant's ability to pay
- If the program requirements are not completed, or proof of completion is not submitted within 120 days, the participant must appear in court on the sentencing date. Participants who do not complete the program requirements will be sentenced by the judge