

Brooklyn Felony Alternatives-to-Incarceration Court

The Brooklyn Felony Alternatives-to-Incarceration Court offers community-based interventions and rigorous judicial monitoring, decreasing the use of jail and prison sentences and leading to reduced criminal dispositions. The goal of the court is to improve public safety by increasing the use of community-based social services and supervision as a response to felony cases. Supervised by Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, participants complete mandated, individualized services that are designed help them avoid future contact with the justice system, reduce unnecessary incarceration, minimize the collateral consequences of criminal justice involvement, and promote swift case resolutions.

Brooklyn Justice Initiatives provides judges and attorneys with independent assessments and tailored interventions that offer clinically-informed, effective, and restorative responses. Social workers assess participants and develop individualized treatment plans. These treatment plans can include individual or group counseling, job training, and substance use or mental health treatment, among other services. The clinical staff at Brooklyn Justice Initiatives has access to a consulting psychiatrist for individuals with significant mental health needs.

Eligibility

The Brooklyn Felony Alternatives-to-Incarceration Court serves those with felony charges who are ineligible for other specialized courts, such as the Brooklyn Mental Health Court or Brooklyn Treatment Court. The court aims to serve participants with a wide range of felony charges and diverse needs.

Program Features

- Permanently assigned judge, attorneys, and social workers
- Independent clinical assessment
- Individualized treatment plans
- Ongoing case management with clinical staff, including regular check-ins based on the client's progress and individual needs
- Referrals to community-based services, including but not limited to:
 - Substance use treatment
 - Mental health services
 - Prosocial programming
 - Job training and education
 - Connections to benefits, healthcare services, and more
- Regular compliance reporting to all court parties
- When completed successfully, participants' cases are resolved without the use of incarceration and with a reduced criminal charge or a dismissal as the final disposition

Partners

The program is a collaboration among the Kings County Supreme Court and Administrative Judge Matthew D’Emic, the Center for Court Innovation, the Kings County District Attorney’s Office, The Legal Aid Society, and Brooklyn Defender Services.

For More Information

To learn more or refer a client, contact Alysha Pizarro at apizarro@nycourts.gov or call 347.406.1937.