**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN REENTRY PROGRAM**

Name:

Case Number:

Length of supervised release term:

Supervised release start date:

# INTRODUCTION

You have been selected to participate in the Northern District of California’s intensive reentry program. We believe you have the ability to succeed in this program which may have significant benefits to you as explained below. By signing this form, you agree voluntarily to participate.

The purpose of the program is to help you successfully reenter your community. You will have access to community-based resources, such as job training and placement, education, treatment, and counseling, and may have a member of the community as a mentor. You will report frequently to your federal probation officer, who will match your needs with available resources and help you take advantage of them. You will also appear every month before a federal magistrate judge, who will talk with you, your family, and/or your mentor about your progress.

The program lasts for at least one year. The year consists of four steps (approximately three months each). In order to move from one step to the next, you will need to meet the minimum requirements as outlined in the attached Reentry Court Phase System.

Read this form carefully before you sign it. If you have any questions, ask your probation representative.

# HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The program is different from regular supervised release in two ways:

 (1) Instead of reporting to an individual federal probation officer, and seeing a judge only if you commit a violation, you will have a group of people — your probation officer, a federal magistrate judge, an assistant federal public defender, an assistant United States attorney, and other service providers – working together to help you succeed. You will see your probation officer often and meet with the judge once a month.

 (2) After you successfully complete the four steps of the program, you will graduate and move to general probation supervision. At the time you graduate, the reentry court judge will make a recommendation to the sentencing judge to reduce your total term of supervised release by 12 months.

If you participate in this program, you will agree to have a federal magistrate judge monitor your progress and impose certain sanctions if you commit infractions of your supervised release. The sanctions will be designed to help you by encouraging you to reflect on your behavior, stay away from people and places that get you into trouble, and act responsibly. A Federal Public Defender will be available at the time of your court appearance for consultation throughout the duration of the program.

# WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE UNITED STATES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

1. You will be thoroughly assessed and then make a plan with your probation officer for your activities during the first three to six months of your release, including employment, education, living situation, and treatment, if appropriate.

2. Your probation officer will work with you to identify problems that you are facing and propose referrals and resources.

# WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE COURT

1. The judge will give you personal attention at regular meetings. He or she will discuss your progress and address any concerns you or the probation officer have.

2. The judge will encourage you when you are doing well.

3. The judge will hold you accountable if you violate the terms of the program.

Some examples of violations are as follows:

a. Unexcused absences from Court sessions;

b. Unexcused absences from PO/office meetings or any scheduled treatment;

c. Positive or missed alcohol/drug screens;

d. Attempt or submission of adulterated urinalysis.

e. Failure to maintain employment (excluding layoffs);

f. Failure to participate in employment, education or cognitive-behavioral programs or mental health treatment;

g. Failure to complete written assignments;

h. Failure to complete a sanction;

i. New arrest;

j. Failure to provide accurate contact information;

k. Other violations of conditions of supervision or court orders.

If you violate the terms of the program, the following list contains some of the sanctions that the judge may impose. Factors that influence the sanction imposed include the seriousness of the violation, the number of violations, and the amount of time you have remained compliant. In addition, an important factor will be whether you disclose the violation voluntarily. Dishonesty on your part will result in enhanced sanctions. As a general rule, when there are repeat violations, more serious sanctions will be applied.

a. Judicial reprimand (a formal disapproval of your conduct);

b. Curfew;

c. Geographic and association restrictions limiting the places that you may go or persons you may associate with;

d. Community service, if you make insufficient efforts to find employment or education;

e. Home confinement with electronic monitoring or community corrections center placement, when your violation of the program’s conditions is serious;

f. Imprisonment for up to seven days for those who consistently violate the rules and are at risk of being expelled from the program;

 and

g. Referral to the district court for revocation of supervised release, imprisonment, or suspension from the program.

# WHAT WE WILL EXPECT FROM YOU

1. You must adhere to the basic conditions of supervision;

2. You must stay free of drugs and not abuse alcohol;

3. You must stay in touch with your probation officer;

4. You must show up for all meetings with the judge and be open and honest about your behavior. Your statements to the reentry court judge will not be used against you in a future revocation proceeding; (The probation officer may, however, conduct an independent investigation based on your admissions.)

5. You must be employed full-time, enrolled in school full-time, or be productively involved with your community in some other way;

6. You must make progress toward a stable residence and finances;

7. You must participate fully in any necessary training or treatment;

8. You must make restitution and fulfill other court-ordered financial obligations.

# SIGNATURES

I have read this form, and I understand it. I agree to participate in the Northern District of California’s Reentry Program and abide by its rules.

 Participant: Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Signature and date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I agree that it is appropriate for the above individual to participate in the Northern District of California Reentry Program.

 Probation Officer: Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Signature and date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reentry Judge

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Assistant Federal Public Defender

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Assistant United States Attorney

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**OAKLAND REENTRY COURT STEP SYSTEM**

# Structure

The Reentry Court program is structured to be completed in a period of 12 months over 4 steps. The steps vary in length, with length determined by the purpose of each step. Each step has a specified purpose with distinct, achievable goals. The steps will encourage participants to develop an understanding of their offending, recognize problematic patterns of behavior, and the impact of offending on self, family and community. The participant will be challenged to accept responsibility for the impact of their behavior on others, and will be provided access to the tools necessary for a pro-social life. Assignments and expectations of each step are concrete, clear and applicable to all participants. Throughout participation in Reentry Court, the participant will work toward the development of a positive community-based support network. Finally, the participant will prepare and present a comprehensive recidivism prevention plan prior to graduation from Reentry Court. Different levels of services will be needed for each participant, and therefore, each step does not identify a specific level of services. Rather, in each step there is a requirement that the participant participate in services as directed.

## **Pre-enrollment stabilization period** (Prior to beginning Reentry Court)

* Assessment by PO, including home visit to ensure sufficient stability
* Completion of the PCRA (Post-Conviction Risk Assessment) and calculation of R.P.I. (Risk Prediction Index)
* Referral to services as deemed necessary/court ordered
* Submit to drug testing (if necessary for that participant)
* Complete Reentry Court intake interview
* Attend Reentry Court courtroom sessions
* Sign participant agreement

## Steps

 Step One: Early Recognition/Looking in the Mirror

 Step Two: Taking Responsibility

 Step Three: Healthy Decision Making

 Step Four: Charting My New Course

## Measuring Progress

Participation will last for a total of 12 months (52 weeks) of satisfactory performance. The 12 months need not be consecutive. The re-entry court judge will give a participant credit toward the twelve months for every two-week period of satisfactory performance. A participant will not get credit for any two-week period of unsatisfactory performance, though the participant will not be set back to a lower phase or have credit taken away from past successes.

## Incentives

* Reduced supervision upon successful completion of Reentry Court
* Public acknowledgement of success by the reentry judge
* Graduation certificates at each step and graduation
* Graduation reception

## Sanctions

* No credit given toward 52-week program total for any two-week period in which performance is unsatisfactory
* Judicial reprimand
* Curfew
* Geographic and association restrictions limiting the places a participant may go or persons a with whom a participant may associate
* Home confinement with electronic monitoring or community corrections center placement
* Imprisonment for up to seven days
* Referral to the district court for revocation of supervised release, imprisonment, or suspension from the program

# STEP ONE: EARLY RECOGNITION (2 months)

## Goals:

Develop an understanding of triggers of 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 counseling/programming related to criminal behavior (victim impact, gang violence, parenting, domestic violence, etc.) weekly, or as directed, and provide verification of attendance
* Identify positive people in participant’s support network, including someone who could serve as a mentor
* Begin a life skills, employment, or education program, or community service, as directed
* If substance abuse or mental health treatment is part of participant’s plan, participate in all screenings, treatment sessions, and self-help meetings, and obtain a sponsor, as directed
* If employed, maintain employment
* Connect to needed medical services or health insurance (i.e. employer-sponsored health insurance, HealthPAC, Medi-Cal), as directed
* Comply with all supervision conditions
* Complete other goals as directed

## Meetings:

* Meetings with the probation officer as directed
* Monthly court appearances
* Bi-Weekly Cognitive Based Group

## Written/Oral Assignment:

How has criminal activity affected my life and what goals do I have for participation in the Reentry Court program?

## Minimum Requirements to Move to Step 2:

* At least 2 months free of criminal activity
* No unexcused sessions
* If substance abuse rehabilitation is part of participant’s plan, at least 30 consecutive days clean and sober

# STEP TWO: TAKING RESPONSIBILITY (3 months)

## Goals:

Demonstrate a commitment to a life without crime. Begin to identify and understand negative impact of behavior on self, family, and community, and to take responsibility for same. Become involved in a life skills, educational or employment program, or secure employment.

## Expectations:

* Attend counseling/programming related to criminal behavior (victim impact, gang violence, parenting, domestic violence, etc.) weekly, or as directed, and provide verification of attendance
* Identify additional positive people in participant’s support network, if needed, including a mentor
* Continue to participate in a life skills, employment, or education program, or community service, as directed
* Participate in a biweekly Reentry Court cognitive-behavioral group
* If substance abuse or mental health treatment is part of plan, participate in substance abuse/mental health treatment as directed, and attend all sessions
* If employed, maintain employment
* Comply with all supervision conditions
* Complete other goals, as directed

## Meetings:

* Meetings with the probation officer as directed
* Monthly court appearances
* Bi-weekly Cognitive Based Group

## Written/Oral Assignment:

How has my criminal activity affected the significant others in my life and community?

## Minimum Requirements to Move to Step 3:

* At least 5 months free of criminal activity
* Stable living arrangement
* Employed, or positive response to vocational/educational goals
* No unexcused sessions
* If substance abuse rehabilitation is part of participant’s plan, at least 60 consecutive days clean and sober

# STEP THREE: HEALTHY DECISION MAKING (4 months)

## Goals:

Develop a positive support network to rely upon in making life decisions and dealing with life stress. Complete life skills, employment or educational program. Secure employment.

## Expectations:

* Attend counseling/programming related to criminal behavior (victim impact, gang violence, parenting, domestic violence, etc.) weekly, or as directed, and provide verification of attendance
* Continue developing relationships with positive support network and mentor
* Continue to participate in a life skills, employment, or education program, or community service, as directed
* Continue to participate in a biweekly Reentry Court cognitive-behavioral group
* If substance abuse or mental health treatment is part of plan, participate in substance abuse/mental health treatment as directed, and attend all sessions
* If employed, maintain employment
* Full compliance with any court-ordered financial obligations (i.e. child support, restitution)
* Obtain referral to legal services (i.e. custody, consumer credit, driver’s license reinstatement), if needed
* Comply with all supervision conditions
* Complete other goals, as directed

## Meetings:

* Meetings with the probation officer as directed
* Monthly court appearances
* Bi-weekly Cognitive Based Group

## Written Assignment:

In collaboration with service providers and mentor, complete a writing assignment addressing the following topic: What tools and skills have I developed to maintain a crime-free life and how do I plan to use those tools to avoid criminal activity during supervision and beyond?

## Minimum Requirements to Move to Step 4:

* At least 10 months free of criminal activity
* Stable living arrangement
* Must be employed unless excused for acceptable reasons (e.g. school, training)
* No unexcused sessions
* If substance abuse rehabilitation is part of participant’s plan, at least 5 consecutive months clean and sober

# STEP FOUR: CHARTING MY NEW COURSE (3 months)

## Goals:

Develop a comprehensive plan and shore up long-term needs for living free of criminal activity.

## Expectations:

* Attend counseling/programming related to criminal behavior (victim impact, gang violence, parenting, domestic violence, etc.) weekly, or as directed, and provide verification of attendance
* Continue developing relationships with positive support network and mentor
* Continue to participate in a life skills, employment, or education program, or community service, as directed
* Continue to participate in a biweekly Reentry Court cognitive-behavioral group
* If substance abuse or mental health treatment is part of plan, participate in substance abuse/mental health treatment as directed, and attend all sessions
* If employed, maintain employment
* Full compliance with any court-ordered financial obligations (i.e. child support, restitution)
* Comply with all supervision conditions
* Complete an approved, written crime prevention plan
* Complete a Reentry Court exit interview

## Meetings:

* Meetings with the probation officer as directed
* Monthly court appearances

## Written Assignment:

In collaboration with service providers, complete and submit an approved comprehensive recidivism prevention plan.

## Minimum Requirements for Graduation:

* At least 12 months free of criminal activity
* Stable living arrangement
* Must be employed unless excused for acceptable reasons (e.g. school, training)
* No unexcused court sessions
* If substance abuse rehabilitation is part of participant’s plan, at least 9 consecutive months clean and sober
* Tell Survival Story