

# CHICAGO PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION COURT

## A Coordinated Initiative

*Cook County State's Attorney's Office*  
*Anita Alvarez*

*Cook County Chief Judge's Office*  
*Timothy C. Evans*

*Cook County Public Defender's Office*  
*Amy Campanelli*

### **Summary**

The Chicago Prostitution and Trafficking Intervention Court is a new deferred prosecution program for misdemeanor prostitution cases. The program will herald a new approach to those engaged in prostitution by combining successful alternative prosecution models with trauma-based services and a trafficking-oriented response. The unique program design, with tailored services, multi-agency cooperation, expert technical assistance, and a contained court-based environment, will yield positive results for participants, public safety, and the criminal justice system as a whole. The Honorable Clarence L. Burch will preside over the court call at Branch 46 (555 W. Harrison).

### **Objectives**

Compliance with the program's protocol will enable participants to address the barriers to exiting a life of prostitution. The program's objectives, which will be measured and evaluated, will include reducing recidivism (for current and other charges), reducing substance abuse and addiction among participants, reducing violent incidents involving participants post-completion, reducing time from arrest to arraignment for prostitution cases, and reducing the jail population awaiting trial on prostitution-related charges.

### **Qualifying Charges**

*Prostitution* (720 ILCS 5/11-14) or a prostitution –related *Pedestrians seeking rides or business* (625 ILCS 5/11-1006 (a) and (b)) charge. Defendants with significant violence in their recent criminal history will not be eligible for the program.

### **Service Providers**

- Christian Community Health Center - Footprints Program (*primary service provider*)
- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless - Prostitution Alternatives Round Table
- The Salvation Army – STOP-IT Program
- Thresholds

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**Services**

The program will include graded levels of programming which will be offered to offenders based on their criminal background and current needs. Most defendants will be offered “deferred prosecution,” where services will be made available to the defendant and charges will be dismissed if the program’s requirements are met. Offenders who fail to respond to the graded deferred prosecution interventions will receive an “alternative sentencing” offer that will make an intensive program available as an alternative to incarceration but as part of a guilty plea deal.

With technical assistance from the Center for Court Innovation in New York, the primary service provider will develop and deliver a psycho-educational curriculum customized from the successful STARS Program in Manhattan, New York. Components of the treatment model will include an individual needs assessment, HIV testing and referral to treatment, individual counseling and support, goal-oriented case management, evidence-informed group counseling, and after care planning. A wide range of resources will be developed for use with participants, including but not limited to entitlement assistance / health care insurance options, medical referrals, housing, legal advocacy, drug and alcohol treatment, and educational referral.

The service provider will attend the court call and oversee assessment, case management, and referrals, as appropriate. As a part of the assessment and ongoing services provided, service provider staff will also screen for trafficking and other related trauma, and services will be geared toward addressing those issues. Specialized services will also be available for transgendered individuals.