

# Diversion Navigators

Diversion Navigators are a division of the Department of Social and Health Services' Office of Forensic Mental Health Services. Diversion Navigators work to identify incarcerated people who may be eligible and willing to engage in services, for diversion programs pursuant to RCW 10.77. People may be eligible if they have had two or more cases dismissed in the preceding 24 months due to incompetency to stand trial findings, and are at risk of another incompetency finding for their current charge.

Diversion Navigators seek to identify these people with the goals of diverting them from the competency process and breaking the cycle of criminal re-offense by offering wraparound services and assisting them for up to six months while they engage in services. Per RCW 10.77.072, DNs will meet, interview, and observe eligible clients to identify their unmet needs in the community. DNs will offer a diversion plan to these clients that meet their identified needs through resources and referrals such as mental health, substance use, physical health, housing support, vocational support, and other services that may be available in the community as needed. These individualized diversion plans can result in the dismissal of criminal charges by agreement of the parties and the services will be set in place to support the person's stability in the community and prevent any further involvement with the justice system.

## Eligibility Requirements

People with two or more cases dismissed due to a finding of incompetency to stand trial in the preceding 24 months and who are at risk for a finding of incompetency under their current charge. People charged with a misdemeanor and up to a class C felony, excluding:

- Felony physical control of a vehicle,
- Felony hit and run resulting in injury,
- Assault in the third degree (with criminal negligence causes bodily harm by means of a weapon or other instrument),
- Assault in the third degree (with criminal negligence causes bodily harm and substantial pain for a period causing considerable suffering),
- A hate crime offense,
- A class C felony with a domestic violence designation,

- A class C felony sex offense,
- A class C felony with a sexual motivation allegation.

Authority see [SB5440 SEC 10](#) and [RCW 10.77.072](#)

## Partners

- Health Care Authority
- Courts
- City and County Jails
- Community-Based Service Providers
- Law Enforcement Agencies

## For more information

Diversion Navigator Program:

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