




The DSHS Forensic Navigator Program

Forensic navigators from the DSHS Office of Forensic Mental Health Services help guide, support and advocate for people as they undergo competency evaluations, competency restoration treatment and transition back into the community through warm handoffs. Forensic navigators work closely with the Outpatient Competency Restoration Program, which provides restoration services to people who are not considered a high risk to public safety and are likely to participate in community-based treatment.

1. Forensic navigator duties

Mandated by *Revised Code of Washington 10.77.074*

- a.  Collect relevant information about the person, including behavioral health services and supports available to them.
- b.  Meet with, interview, and observe the person.
- c.  Present information gathered to the court to assist with the determination about the person's suitability for diversion or outpatient competency restoration, and to facilitate that transition.

2. Who IS eligible for forensic navigator services?

The court may appoint a forensic navigator when signing a competency evaluation order under RCW 10.77. However, even if a forensic navigator is not directly appointed by the court, DSHS will assign one. This allows a forensic navigator to meet with the client, whether they are in or out of custody, to gather information and provide support and recommendations on how to connect or refer them to relevant treatment and/or diversion services.



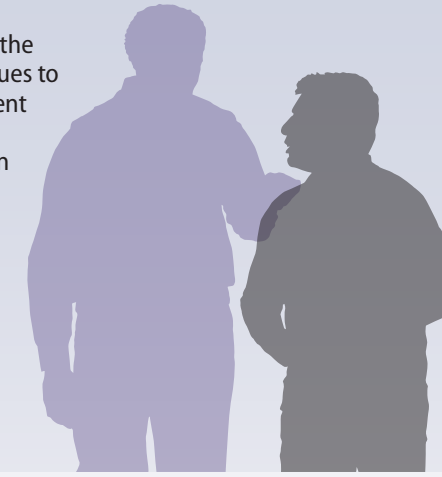
3. Who IS NOT eligible for forensic navigator services?

All charge types are eligible for assignment or appointment of a forensic navigator. The forensic navigator typically works closely with counsel to determine how best to engage with the client and provide relevant support and information to the defendant and the court.

4. How it works

- A person facing criminal charges is assigned forensic navigator services.*
- The forensic navigator gathers court and jail records, documents from relevant health care and non-health care databases, and information from community providers and/or other natural supports.*
- The forensic navigator has an informal interview with the client to discuss options for outpatient restoration and other services. and They evaluate the person's willingness to participate in outpatient restoration, adhere to medication management services, and abstain from non-prescribed substances and alcohol.*
- The forensic navigator advises the court on whether the defendant is suitable for OCRP and recommends diversion options.
- The court rules whether the defendant can be admitted into OCRP.
- The forensic navigator connects the client with OCRP and serves as an interim case manager and liaison to ensure the client adheres to conditions of release, attends competency restoration classes and takes prescribed medications.**
- After the client successfully completes outpatient competency restoration, the forensic navigator continues to have contact with the client at least once a month during a 60-day transition period.***

* Pre-hearing phase
 ** OCRP Phase
 *** Post-OCRP phase



CONTACT INFORMATION

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MORE INFORMATION

For details about the Trueblood lawsuit, visit www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs or email truebloodtaskforce@dshs.wa.gov.

To learn more about how various Trueblood services work together to serve Trueblood class members, click [here](#).

For more information about Outpatient Competency Restoration Program legal timelines, click [here](#).

Example of forensic navigator/client timeline

Forensic navigator duties may be categorized into the following periods of engagement: Pre-hearing, OCRP engagement, Post-OCRP engagement, and closed.

Pre-hearing phase

Forensic navigators meet with, interview and observe clients in this phase and gather information prior to presenting a recommended services plan at the competency hearing.

OCRP

If a person is ordered into OCRP, the forensic navigator works with the client in the OCRP phase. The time a person spends in OCRP varies based on the level of criminal charge and the RCW governing the legal authority lengths.

Post OCRP

After a person has successfully completed OCRP, the forensic navigator attempts to follow up with the client and/or community provider to determine whether the client is receiving community mental health services. This phase is based on client need and can last up to 60 days.

Trueblood Phases

- **Phase 1:** Pierce, Southwest and Spokane regions (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021)
- **Phase 2:** King region (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023)
- **Phase 3:** To be determined (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025)

Key dates

- **Jan. 1, 2022:** Forensic navigator services begin in King County
- **March 31, 2022:** Phase 2 OCRP, FPATH and FHARPS services begin in King County

