

# Palmer Coordinated Resources Project

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## What is the Palmer Coordinated Resources Project (PCRCP)?

The Palmer Coordinated Resources Project is a “problem-solving” or “therapeutic” court that hears cases involving individuals with mental health disorders or disabilities who have been charged with misdemeanor or felony offenses.

The program focuses on ensuring community treatment and services in lieu of incarceration with the ultimate goal of preventing further contacts with the criminal justice system.

PCRCP was established by the Alaska Court System (ACS) in 2005 to address the unique needs of misdemeanor offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and ACS provide funding for the project.

## Objectives of the Palmer Coordinated Resources Project

- Promote public safety
- Reduce inappropriate incarceration of offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities and promote their well-being in the community
- Reduce repeated criminal activity among offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities (legal recidivism)
- Reduce psychiatric hospitalization of offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities (clinical recidivism)
- Relieve the burden on the Department of Corrections presented by inmates with mental health disorders or disabilities

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## Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for participation in PCRCP, a defendant must be:

- Charged with a misdemeanor or a low-level felony offense
- Diagnosed with a mental illness (a beneficiary of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority)
- Residing within the Mat-Su Borough
- Eligible to receive community treatment services
- Willing to voluntarily participate in an individualized case plan in lieu of traditional bail or sentencing conditions

## How does PCRCP work?

The court diverts eligible offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities from jail and into appropriate community treatment, focusing on their individual therapeutic and criminogenic needs (factors that are predictive of recidivism). With the second generation of mental health courts, we follow criminal justice research that emphasizes the importance of addressing criminogenic needs when the case plan is developed.

**Collaborative team approach:** An important highlight of PCRCP is to provide a single point of contact for a criminal defendant with a mental health disorder or disability. The project provides a multidisciplinary team of designated and trained judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers who consistently participate in court hearings.

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**Community Treatment:** A defendant is eligible to receive assistance from the project in developing, coordinating, and monitoring an individualized case plan. The court orders that plan as a condition of bail or probation. Participants are monitored by probation officers who work exclusively with CRP. CRP probation officers are employed by the Division of Behavioral Health, Alcohol Safety Action Program. Probation officers provide treatment and resource matching, and linkage to and monitoring of the case plan.

**Monitoring by the Court:** The court monitors the participant's adherence to the case plan through regularly held status hearings and receives reports on the participant's progress. If treatment non-adherence occurs, the court may adjust the plan to motivate adherence or employ non-jail-based sanctions or incarceration.

## Invitation

Court is open to the public and anyone may observe PCRCP hearings.

Judge Thomas Jamgochian  
Courtroom 5

Judge John Cagle  
Courtroom 7

Palmer Courthouse  
435 S. Denali, Palmer, AK 99645  
Tuesdays at 2:30 pm

Please call ahead to the Project Coordinator to find out which judge will be presiding: (907) 746-8142

## Referral Information

Anyone can refer a person to the Palmer Coordinated Resources Project. Police, corrections staff, lawyers, friends, family members, community behavioral health providers, judges, and court staff can alert the Project Coordinator that a defendant may be eligible to have his or her case heard in this therapeutic court.

For more information or to make a referral, contact the Project Coordinator:

Kristin Hull  
435 S. Denali  
Palmer, AK 99645  
Ph: (907) 746-8142  
Fax: (907) 746-8151  
[khull@akcourts.gov](mailto:khull@akcourts.gov)

## Coordinated Resources Project Partnerships

The Palmer Coordinated Resources Project is a collaborative effort of:

- Alaska Court System
- Alaska Department of Corrections
- Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP)
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Alaska Department of Law
- Alaska District Attorney's Office
- Alaska Family Services
- Alaska Public Defender Agency
- Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
- Mat-Su Behavioral Health Services
- Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults
- Daybreak Mental Health Services
- Set Free Alaska
- True North Recovery