

## MENTAL HEALTH COURT SUPPORT SERVICES

### Are available to:

- people 16 years of age and over, and
- who have mental health problems, and
- who have been charged with a low-risk criminal offense.

### In Toronto:

- Women who are in custody will have their cases heard at College Park Court. Women who are out of custody will be heard in the district in which the alleged offense was committed.
- Men's cases are heard in a court in the district in which the alleged offense was committed.
- Fitness Assessments for Old City Hall and College Park Courts occur in the consolidated Mental Health Court in Courtroom 102 at Old City Hall.

### Referrals

Anyone may make a referral – including the individual who has been charged, family or friends, police, crown attorney, defense counsel, judge, service providers, community agencies, etc.

These services are funded by the Ministry of Health and delivered in co-operation with the Ministry of the Attorney General.

There is no cost to the user.

CRCT is a non-profit, charitable community mental health agency serving the Toronto area for more than 30 years.

We assist adult users of the mental health system. Core funding is provided to CRCT by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Supplemental funding is provided by the United Way of Greater Toronto, the Ministry of Canadian Heritage, the Rotary Club of Toronto, the EJLB Foundation, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the City of Toronto – Access and Equity Grant.

### CRCT programs:

- Community Support Services (CSS)  
(East and West Teams) Family Program  
Somali and Tamil focused workers
- Health Promotion Program
- Hostel Outreach Program (HOP) (working with women)
- Mental Health Court Support Services

### Charitable Registration

#118871128 RR0001

*Donations Gratefully Accepted*

Visit our web site [www.crct.org](http://www.crct.org) for more information – and for our comprehensive guide to mental health services, supports and resources in the Toronto area.



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of Toronto



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## MENTAL HEALTH COURT SUPPORT SERVICES

## MENTAL HEALTH COURT SUPPORT SERVICES IN TORONTO

The purpose of the Mental Health Court Support Program is to assist people charged with low-risk criminal offenses to access and utilize mental health services and other supports.

The Mental Health Court Support Program recognizes that some individuals who face criminal charges would be better served by the Mental Health System than the Criminal Justice System (CJS). Individuals are diverted out of the regular stream of the CJS, by virtue of their voluntary participation in the program.

The Mental Health Court Worker meets with the individual to assess his or her situation and needs. The assessment includes the person's mental health status, their current living situation, available supports and linkages to psychiatric and other services.

Subsequent to the assessment, the Mental Health Court Worker collaborates with the individual to develop a diversion plan and makes recommendations regarding appropriate services. These could include psychiatric assessment and treatment, securing resources to meet basic needs (shelter, food, clothing) and finding short or long-term community supports. After the plan is agreed upon by both MHCW and the individual, it is presented for approval to the provincial Crown Attorney.

The MHCW will assist the person to access and use the identified services and supports, and provide short-term assistance.

### Access and Equity

CRCT has a commitment to work with people facing barriers to service, especially as a result of homelessness, conflict with the law, race, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation and language.

## SERVICES OFFERED

### 1. Mental Health Diversion

*This is for persons:*

- who have a serious mental health problem/mental illness;
- who have been charged with committing a low-risk offense;
- who accept mental health diversion;
- who are approved for diversion by the provincial Crown Attorney.

### 2. Linking people to short-term and long-term services and supports.

### 3. Support and information for family members and significant other people.

### 4. Education about consumer issues, mental illness, mental health services and the mental health system.

Furthermore, each mental health court support and services site offers a broad range of consultation services. A consultation refers to a service that the program provides that is not related to a diversion matter or case management service. This includes requests for a "one time only" service, such as answering questions about court proceedings or providing information/referrals for community supports, for example. Consultations may be provided to an accused not deemed suitable for diversion, Crown Attorneys, Defense or Duty Counsel, the Judiciary or other court personnel, family members or accused or a service provider.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

All employees, students and volunteers at CRCT are required to sign an oath of confidentiality. We keep your personal information private and do not release it to anyone without your consent, unless obligated by law. To learn more about our privacy policies contact Program Privacy Officer at (416) 482-4103.

## THE COURT SUPPORT NETWORK

The Mental Health Court Support Network of Toronto is comprised of the management and staff of the Court Support Programs in the City of Toronto. Meetings are held regularly to share information, develop common procedures and data collection and identify issues and strategies to improve our services.

### Toronto Courts – Service Providers

**College Park – Ontario Court of Justice**  
CRCT (Court Support Worker) – Room 263  
Tel: (416) 598-8103

CRCT (Court Support Worker) – Room 265  
Tel: (416) 598-8108 | Fax: 598-3495

**Metro West – Ontario Court of Justice**  
CMHA – West Toronto (Court Support Worker)  
Tel: (416) 314-3408 or (416) 314-3384 | Fax: (416) 314-5765

**Metro North Ontario Court of Justice**  
COTA (Court Support Worker)  
Tel: (416) 667-0933 | Fax: (416) 667-1084

**Old City Hall Ontario Court of Justice & Consolidated Mental Health Courts**  
CRCT (Court Support Workers and Court Case Manager) – Room 20  
Tel: (416) 364-8394 | Fax: (416) 364-3671  
CRCT (Program Manager) – Room 20  
Tel: (416) 364-8394 | Fax: (416) 364-3671

**Metro East - Ontario Court of Justice**  
CMHA – East Toronto (Court Support Worker)  
Tel: (416) 285-4177 | Fax: (416) 285-1663