

PreTrial Intervention Program

What is PTI?

Pretrial Intervention (PTI) is a diversion program established by State statute that upon successful completion charges are dismissed and criminal prosecution is avoided. With the support of PTI all participants are provided an opportunity to evaluate themselves and to make necessary changes for a more positive lifestyle.

How long will I be in PTI?

The length of participation in PTI ranges from 4 to 12 months based on the participant's individual needs and goals.

Am I eligible for PTI?

The PTI Act of 1980 states that PTI shall be appropriate where:

1. The offender is at least 17 years of age;
2. Justice will be served by placing the offender in an intervention program;
3. The needs of offender and State can be better met outside the traditional criminal justice process;
4. The offender poses no threat to the community;
5. The offender is unlikely to be involved in further criminal activity;
6. The offender is likely to respond quickly to rehabilitative treatment; and
7. The offender has no significant prior criminal history.

How do I get into PTI?

A participant must be referred to PTI by the Solicitor's Office, Magistrate or Municipal Judge. All local participants are given a date to report to the PTI office to apply and pay fees. (Out of State and out of county participants are mailed an application form).

What do I need to bring to apply?

In order to apply, each applicant must bring the following:

1. Money order or cashier's check for \$350.00. This amount includes \$100.00 application fee and \$250.00 participation fee.
2. Driver's license or pictured I.D.
3. Social Security card.

What is expected of me?

1. Report to PTI as required.
2. Maintain employment/school full-time (part-time both is acceptable).
3. No illegal drug use.
4. Complete 60 hours of community service.
5. Pay restitution to victim(s) if required.

6. Participate in outside services when required (alcohol/drug education or treatment, prison tours, life-style group, anger management, etc.).
7. Successfully complete all goals and deadlines as required.

What happens when I successfully complete PTI?

All applicable agencies are notified to dismiss referred charge(s) (Solicitor, Magistrate, Municipal Judge, Police Department and SLED). Participant is notified that all charges have been dismissed. Upon request, the Solicitor's Office may be notified to begin expungement.

What happens if I fail to complete PTI?

PTI will close your file and the referring agency will be notified of unsuccessful completion.

Out of County: Participants who are charged in North Myrtle Beach but live in another county within the State of South Carolina may request that their cases be transferred to their home county.

Out of State: Participants who are charged in North Myrtle Beach but live in another state will be sent the necessary forms to apply. Upon acceptance a plan will be mailed that list all necessary goals and deadlines to be accomplished. Participation will be monitored by mail and by telephone.

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact:

Horry County Pretrial Intervention Office located at 114 Laurel Street, Conway, SC 29526; telephone number: (843) 248-3102; fax number: (843) 248-2812.

Georgetown County Pretrial Intervention Office located at 603 Front Street, Georgetown, SC 29440; telephone number: (843) 545-3171; fax number: (843) 545-3268.

A Message from J. Gregory Hembree, Horry County Solicitor

The Solicitor's Office of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit is committed to the vigorous prosecution of those who commit crime. However, we recognize that exceptions should be made when the circumstances warrant, and the Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI) has been established for those cases.

This program is designed to give the first time offender a second chance, provided the offender has the motivation and desire to turn his or her life around. Our program has stringent requirements which must be strictly followed in order for a participant to receive the full benefits of the program. A participant must make full restitution to the crime victims and make a contribution to the community by performing community service work at a non-profit organization. Random drug testing is required.

Upon successful completion, all records of pending charges may be destroyed. This will give participants a "second chance" to continue their lives without the burden of a criminal record. Pretrial Intervention provides a great opportunity to recover from a mistake that has jeopardized one's freedom and threatens one's future.