

The Rochester SAFE Court Team, in conjunction with the defendant's attorney, will assess the defendant's eligibility for and willingness to participate in the program.

### Decision to Participate

- The defendant's participation in Rochester SAFE Court is voluntary.
- The final participation decision is made by the Rochester SAFE Court Judge.

### Program Structure

- A guilty plea to the original charge, a reduced charge, or to the violation of probation charge is required to participate, with negotiated terms for successful completion or unsuccessful discharge. A participant's plea may take place before the transferring Judge or before the Rochester SAFE Court Judge.
- Each participant must sign an individually tailored Participation Agreement that outlines his/her rights and responsibilities.
- Program, clinical, and judicial monitoring are key components of Rochester SAFE Court. Participants are required to maintain contact with their Program and Treatment Teams, to appear in Court on a regular basis as directed, and to refrain from criminal activity.
- Treatment and program status reports are communicated to Rochester SAFE Court on court dates.
- The term of participation in Rochester SAFE Court varies, depending upon the participant's individual needs. The term of participation can be as short as four months, but it is not uncommon for the term to be a year or more.

- Progress is rewarded with praise from the Judge, a shorter Program participation term, a disposition that includes no additional jail time, a Certificate of Accomplishment, and the opportunity for personal wellness and recovery.
- Program noncompliance may result in recommended clinical responses, admonition from the Judge, more frequent court appearances, graduated sanctions, and short jail stays. Continued noncompliance could result in termination from Rochester SAFE Court and an appropriate sentence.

### Defendant's First Court Appearance in Rochester SAFE Court Is Scheduled For:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE: Hall of Justice  
99 Exchange Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14614**

### For further information contact:

**Andrea Sevene, Coordinator  
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## ROCHESTER SAFE COURT



Hon. Melissa L. Barrett  
Presiding Judge

Andrea Sevene, Coordinator

Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14614  
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Rochester Human Trafficking Intervention Court

## Rochester SAFE Court

Rochester SAFE Court is a specialized problem-solving court that provides trauma-specific services and support to defendants in New York's criminal justice system who were, are, or may be at risk of sexual exploitation. Research shows that the overwhelming majority of these individuals suffer from numerous problems, including trauma, substance use disorders, mental health disorders, homelessness, and physical health problems resulting from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

Rochester SAFE Court links its participants with community-based interventions and closely monitors their engagement with essential services. Rochester SAFE Court recognizes the prevalence and impact of trauma among justice-involved individuals at risk of sexual exploitation, and is committed to the furtherance of trauma-specific practices and interventions

### Goals

- Link participants with trauma-related addiction, mental health, and physical disorders to appropriate community-based services.
- Encourage and support participants' sustained engagement with appropriate community-based services.
- Improve public safety by reducing recidivism of justice-involved individuals at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Improve the Court's ability to identify, assess, and respond to individuals who are at risk of sexual exploitation at the earliest possible stage of their involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Create and enhance linkages between the criminal justice and community-based treatment and service providers.

### Key Principles

To achieve these goals, Rochester SAFE Court has implemented several trauma-informed practices and procedures that make the Court unique:

- *Identification of At-Risk Justice-Involved Individuals:* individualized screening and assessment with evidence-based, validated screening methods.
- *Participant-Specific Plans:* evidence-based assessment of each participant's barriers and needs, and participant-specific measures of success that consider past trauma.
- *Responsiveness to Defendant-Victim Paradigm:* emphasis on trust and rapport; reduction of coercive techniques, collateral consequences, and re-victimization; and participant involvement in case and program planning.
- *Individualized Trauma-Informed Approaches:* coordination with community-based programs and services that specialize in trauma-specific services and participant safety.

In addition, Rochester SAFE Court has adopted operating principles that have proved effective in other problem-solving Courts:

- *Judicial Monitoring:* utilization of the Judge's authority to encourage and monitor the defendant's engagement in treatment and services with simultaneous emphasis on the seriousness of the process and constant mindfulness of public safety concerns.
- *Cross-System Coordination:* communication and coordination among the criminal justice, treatment, housing, medical, insurance, vocational, and educational systems to provide effective community based-interventions.

- *Participant Accountability:* support for participant acceptance of responsibility for his/her actions and choices, including wellness and recovery.

### Criminal Justice Eligibility

- Defendants in Monroe, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, and Wayne Counties who are charged with violations, misdemeanors, felonies, and/or probation violations are eligible to be screened for participation.

### Referral Process

- Cases that originate in Rochester City Court are transferred after arraignment to Rochester SAFE Court to determine whether the defendant is eligible and wishes to participate. If the defendant is not eligible or does not wish to participate, the case is transferred back to the arraigning Judge.
- In cases that originate in Monroe County Town and Village Courts, the Judge may order the removal of a case to Rochester SAFE Court upon the defendant's request following the defendant's arraignment or negotiated plea.
- In cases that originate in Courts in Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, and Wayne Counties, the Judge may order the removal of a case to Rochester SAFE Court upon the defendant's request and the District Attorney's consent following the defendant's arraignment or negotiated plea.

### Screening Process

- Initial screening is done by a review of a defendant's case file and by observations of a defendant's visual and audible cues; not by direct questioning.

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