

(3.27.20) See below for newly issued OASAS guidance:

Court/Parole/Probation Appearances

During the COVID-19 Crisis, criminal justice entities have changed their reporting procedures.

- Problem Solving Court appearances (Drug Treatment Courts, Family Treatment Courts, Veteran's Courts, Opioid Courts) will be postponed until further notice and activities are being deferred to a later date to the fullest extent possible. Participants should be directed to contact their attorney to schedule future contact and appearances before the court.
- Parole and Probation have halted in-person appearances. Participants should call their P.O. and report by phone. The P.O. can provide any further instructions.

Discharge of patients/residents involved in Criminal Justice System

- For Problem Solving Courts (Drug Courts, Family Treatment Courts, Veteran's Courts, etc.), programs should continue to discharge individuals based on the treatment needs of each person. If the person is ready for discharge, they should be discharged. The program should notify their court coordinator through email and the court itself through regular mail of the discharge and plan for further treatment. The participant's attorney should be copied on all correspondence. The program should get the court participant to sign a release allowing the new program to communicate with the court in the future. **IT IS NOT REQUIRED TO WAIT TO HEAR FROM THE COURT BEFORE DISCHARGING THE PARTICIPANT.** Instruct court participants to contact their attorney to schedule future contact and appearances before the court.
- For court participants who leave against medical advice or are administratively discharged by you; the program should also notify the court through email or regular mail. Participants who leave against clinical advice, or administratively by you, may experience consequences at some point.
- For Parolees, the State Parole offices have halted in-person appearances; however, all parole officers continue to be at the office and in the field. Programs should contact the P.O./SPO in the usual fashion (telephone or email) to update on progress, notify of program discharge, etc. Programs should send their compiled weekly reports to their Regional Reentry Manager who in turn will forward said reports to the field.
- Programs should communicate discharge notification and post-discharge plan with probation through email or telephone.

[View all Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance and recommendations for health care providers.](#)