

## ***The Polaris Program***

is a voluntary, post-adjudication program, intended to promote effective treatment as an alternative to incarceration for a person whose symptoms of mental illness, history of treatment non-compliance, and/or refusal to accept treatment, results in a recurring pattern of misdemeanor offenses.

The Program will provide a comprehensive, coordinated approach to the misdemeanor cases of eligible defendants with severe mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders in order to decrease criminal recidivism, improve public safety and improve the defendant's quality of life by stabilizing the defendant in the least restrictive environment.

*The Polaris Program uses a non-adversarial approach that is focused on addressing an individual's mental health issues while holding them accountable for their offense as well as their own well being, treatment and recovery.*

If you feel that you or someone that you know is eligible and may benefit from the Polaris Program, feel free to contact one of the following representatives for additional information:

***Canton Municipal Probation Department***  
330.438.4227

***Stark County TASC***  
330.479.1912

***Stark County Public Defenders Office***  
330.451.7200

***The Mental Health & Recovery Services  
Board of Stark County***  
330.455.6644



### **The Canton Municipal Court**

Canton City Hall  
218 Cleveland Avenue, SW  
Canton, Ohio 44702  
330.438.4200

[www.cantonscourt.org](http://www.cantonscourt.org)

## ***POLARIS PROGRAM***

***Specialized Docket***



**Providing Direction for  
Personal Growth, Positive  
Change and Accountability**

## *Helping Individuals Navigate the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Systems*



If you have been charged with a non-violent misdemeanor crime and have a history of mental illness, you may benefit from the Polaris Program at the Canton Municipal Court.

The Polaris Program is designed as an alternative to a jail sentence and provides community-based, coordinated treatment and supervision services for individuals with eligible mental health issues. The treatment program is designed to assist you in addressing your mental health needs under the supervision of the Court.

The Polaris Program will provide access to a range of supportive services to assist you in the management of your well-being and recovery. Polaris Program staff will assist you with scheduling and maintaining necessary appointments for services.

The Polaris Program is a voluntary, yet intensive program of mental health treatment and court supervision. In some circumstances, successful completion of this program may result in the fines and charges you plead No Contest to being vacated by the Judge.

### *Program Objectives*

- ◆ Stabilization of mental illness
- ◆ Assistance navigating the criminal justice and mental health system
- ◆ Assistance with medication and treatment services
- ◆ Provide access to educational, vocational, housing and social services
- ◆ Decrease time in jail
- ◆ Reduce recidivism
- ◆ Improve quality of life

### *Basic Requirements*

- ◆ Attend all required court hearings and treatment sessions
- ◆ Maintain appointments with probation office and case coordinator
- ◆ Abstain from the use of illegal and/or non-prescribed drugs and alcohol
- ◆ Maintain medication regimen as prescribed
- ◆ Engage in a sober and positive support community
- ◆ No further violations of the law



### *How it Works*

The Polaris Program candidate must have an eligible, pending charge or active case at the Canton Municipal Court and must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:

- ◆ Defendant is a Stark County resident.
- ◆ Defendant does not have an extensive history of violent crimes.
- ◆ Defendant has plead No Contest or Guilty to M-1 through M-3 offense, or multiple offenses resulting in a minimum of 60 day suspended jail term.
- ◆ Defendant is eligible for Probation Supervision.
- ◆ Defendant could benefit from receiving outpatient mental health services.
- ◆ Defendant demonstrates an interest and willingness to voluntarily participate in the Polaris Program Docket.
- ◆ Defendant presents with a history of one of the following Axis I Diagnosis: Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders; Schizoaffective Disorder; Bi-Polar Disorder; Severe Depression; Co-occurring Mental Illness and/or substance use disorders.
- ◆ Defendant executes a Release/Exchange of Information with the Polaris Program.
- ◆ A clinical and judicial determination is made as to the defendants acceptance into the Polaris Program.