

## WHAT IS PRETRIAL INTERVENTION?

Pretrial Intervention (PTI) is just as the name implies. It is an intervention into a case before it comes to Court. This system allows the defendant to be diverted from conviction, enter a program of restitution, community service, prison tour, drug testing, counseling, and return to society without a bad mark of a criminal record. In cases where it is appropriate to compensate victims for their losses, restitution is required from the defendant before he or she can complete the diversion program.

## HOW LONG WILL I BE IN PTI?

The length of participation in PTI ranges from 3-12 months, based on participant's individual progress.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Pretrial intervention needs community support and acceptance before it can help guide first time offenders. It is most important that PTI enrollees find suitable employment or full-time schooling with the help of program counselors and community resources. Housing services, education and health care can only be provided to enrollees through cooperation of agencies and individuals in the area.

Private businesses, service agencies, community groups, school groups and individuals interested in learning more about

the program or its concept and philosophy, can call or come by PTI and let us know of your interest.

## FEES

Since PTI is a self-supporting agency, there are fees for all applicants, except for those who show adequate proof of their inability to pay. Indigency is determined by the Solicitor's Office. The application fee is \$100.00 (non-refundable) and is payable at the first interview. If a client meets the qualification and is accepted, \$250.00 participation fee is due at the orientation. There are also fees for counseling, drug screens, restitution and expungement. These fees are also non-refundable in case of termination for failure to meet program requirements.

## OUT – OF –COUNTY

Participants who are charged in Lee, Clarendon, Sumter or Williamsburg County, but live in another county within the State of South Carolina, can request their PTI participation to be transferred to their home county.

## OUT –OF –STATE

Participants who are charged in Lee, Sumter, Clarendon or Williamsburg County, but live in another state can request for an application package by mail. If accepted to PTI, participation would be monitored by telephone and mail.



**Pretrial Intervention Program**

# Pretrial Intervention Program

**Office of the Solicitor  
Third Judicial Circuit  
Ernest A. Finney, III Solicitor**



**Mallicha Ragin  
PTI Director**

<b>Sumter</b>	<b>(803) 436-2197</b>
<b>Lee</b>	<b>(803) 484-5341 Ext. 3172</b>
<b>Clarendon</b>	<b>(803) 435-4071</b>
<b>Williamsburg</b>	<b>(843) 355-9321 Ext. 173 &amp;174</b>

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Although many applicants to PTI come directly from the County Detention Centers, magistrates, attorneys, agencies, and individuals also make referrals for consideration in the program

The defendant may also directly apply to Pretrial. After the appropriate screening and approval from the Solicitor, eligibility is determined and the enrollee is notified of this status within thirty (30) days. Contacting the Solicitor's PTI program makes requests for the interview to determine eligibility. Application must be made within seventy-five (75) days of arrest or before indictment. Some examples of Pretrial eligible offenses are simple possession of marijuana or controlled substances, shoplifting, lesser assault cases, larceny, and other non-violent offenders with no significant prior criminal record. Offenses which are threatening to the personal safety of private citizens and which indicate a serious threat toward violence are not eligible for the program. Most traffic related offenses are excluded.



Offenses are considered on an individual basis. In cases where a victim is involved, it is necessary for the arrested to make restitution and allow the victim to state his or her opinion --- something not normally done in the criminal justice system.

Should the defendant choose not to complete the requirements of the program or if he or she is unfavorably dismissed for failure to cooperate, the case is returned to court for full prosecution without prejudice.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Once accepted, participation in Pretrial Intervention is immediate. At the defendant's first meeting with the PTI specialist, the details of requirements set forth by the Solicitor are discussed, and a plan set forth for their completion. This plan of action states short and long term goals for the defendant and includes vocational guidance, training, educational services and job development.

Upon successful completion of the Solicitor's requirements, the appropriate court is notified and the charges against the defendant are dismissed. At that time, the defendant is eligible under the S.C. Code of Laws 17-1-40, to clear his or her arrest record for the dismissal.

The Pretrial Intervention programs have worked closely with the Courts and law enforcement to establish a program that works for the good of all involved --- the accused, the victim and the taxpayer. South Carolina's programs also have access to the latest techniques in diversion through national publications and seminars of such groups as the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA) and the Pretrial Services Resource Center in Washington, D.C.



*A Treatment Alternative*

