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Prepared as a public service by
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04/00

Drug Related Offenses

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Drug related charges are serious matters. The criminal justice system has an interest in both punishing the offender and helping the offender receive needed drug treatment. This brochure is designed to help persons understand portions of the criminal justice system involving drug offenses.

What is a drug offense?

A drug offense includes:
(1) possessing an illegal drug;
(2) manufacturing an illegal drug;
(3) distributing, selling or dealing an illegal drug;
(4) purchasing an illegal drug, or;
(5) attempting to participate in or conspiring (agreeing) to participate in any of the above.

What are some options for those charged?

If a person is convicted of a drug offense, the court may sentence the person to prison or jail. Sometimes a court has no choice and must sentence the person to prison or jail. A court may decide to sentence the person to probation instead of prison or jail which likely requires that an offender follow through with recommended treatment. If someone is placed on probation, it is likely that a condition of probation will be following through with VIOLATORS.

If an offender violates a term of probation, the court may send the person to prison, jail, modify probation, or require the offender to enroll in the Violators' Program. The Violator's Program is located at the correctional facility in Newton, Iowa. For information about the program, please call (515) 792-7552.

DRUG COURT

Drug Court is an innovative project which began in Polk County. It is a probation program under which the person is under the strict supervision of a Judge.

Drug Court participants are required to obtain a substance abuse evaluation, complete treatment, remain sober, obtain steady employment, and follow all recommendations of the Court. Drug court's requirements are difficult to satisfy and require the person to make the necessary life style changes to become a productive and law abiding citizen. The following individuals are ineligible for the Drug Court:
- Those on parole
- Those who committed a violent offense
- Those with a previous felony drug conviction
- Those with a current felony drug charge
- Those with a forcible felony conviction within a previous five years
- Those with prior conviction for sex offense

If someone is interested in Drug Court and meets eligibility requirements, please call (515) 242-6079 or (515) 491-2068. If you are enrolled in Drug Court and have questions, please call 515-277-9008.

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