



Steering Clear

Steering Clear is an intensive probation supervision program for offenders with multiple DWI convictions. It is designed to be 6-12 months in length. The length of the program is determined by each individual offender and their personal progress and compliance while on probation. Cases are approached on an individual basis – it is not “one-size fits all.”

There are three general components under the umbrella of Steering Clear. The components are required to complete the program, allowing offenders to be transferred to less intensive supervision.

Steering Clear is considered comparable to Safe Streets First in Dakota County and ISP (Intensive Supervision Programs) in most other counties.



1. Comply with all recommendations for chemical use interventions.

Requirements for chemical use/abuse/dependency services are based on recommendations provided by an independent assessor. Requirements may include chemical dependency treatment, aftercare, sober support, educational programming, etc. As long as Corrections is used as a collateral source, the recommended programs are considered appropriate.

2. Successfully complete the first year of Project SAVE.

Project SAVE currently requires 30 consecutive days of remote alcohol monitoring during each year of probation supervision. However, requirements may be changing/adjusted as new Ignition Interlock rules/laws are emerging. New Interlock systems require not only GPS, but also will provide probation an opportunity to access Interlock results in *real time* rather than having to wait for a monthly download.

3. Successfully complete cognitive programming.

Typical cognitive programming used:

- a. Decision Points for male offenders. This program is a minimum of 12 weeks in length, two groups weekly.
- b. Moving On for female offenders. This program is a minimum of 14 weeks, two groups weekly.
- c. However, if alternative programming is deemed more appropriate for offenders other than the named cognitive programming, such as individual counseling, DBT, EMDR, etc., Corrections will request a modification to the original Court order to address individual offender needs.

Criteria for Referral:

1. Any felony DWI;
2. 3 DWI's within 5 years;
3. 2 DWI's within 5 years and the current DWI has a BAC of over .20

Corrections agents may also recommend the program.

The main goal of Steering Clear is community safety (no injuries and/or deaths to community members and/or offenders as a result of DWI offenses or conduct). The secondary goal is for offenders to maintain sobriety and have no new criminal behavior/convictions.

The philosophy of the Steering Clear program is offender success and accountability through support. Offenders are encouraged to be honest about all aspects of their lives, including any slips, risk factors, triggers, and red flags.

Informal and formal Sanction Conferences are preferred in lieu of offenders being returned to Court for a formal Probation Revocation Hearing. If a formal Probation Hearing is required, the recommendation will most likely be execution of the sentence or a transfer to a higher/more appropriate level of supervision.