

Bucks County Department of Corrections

Day Reporting Program

What are Day Reporting Centers?

Day reporting centers are a more recent correctional option that originated in Great Britain in the early 1970's, with the first American center opening in 1986 in Massachusetts. By 1995, 114 centers were established in 22 states. These centers require Offenders who are on pretrial release, probation or parole to appear at a specific location on a frequent and regularly scheduled basis. Unlike community corrections centers, the day reporting centers are non-residential and Offenders are required to report to the centers, but return to their homes to sleep at night. There is extreme diversity in day reporting centers operating across the country, in terms of type of Offenders, types of services, number of clients served at a center, and length of time to be spent at the center. Typically, while at the center, Offenders are required to participate in services (treatment, employment search, etc...) or activities (urine test, meetings with supervising officers, etc..) provided by the center or other community agencies. Day reporting centers frequently test Offenders for drug use and/or alcohol consumption. On average, a day reporting center serves fewer than 100 Offenders at any one time and employs one line-staff member for about every seven Offenders. The centers emphasize both strict surveillance and high levels of treatment. Proponents of these centers boast that day reporting satisfies several justifications of punishment: incapacitation, retribution and rehabilitation.

What is Intermediate Punishment?

Intermediate punishment is a sentence which does not include incarceration, but does include court ordered sanctions. Restrictive intermediate punishment is a sentence which can include incarceration or court mandated treatment. This partial incarceration can include options such as work release and house arrest. The Day Reporting Program is essentially a middle ground between incarceration and traditional probation/parole. Individuals who participate in the program are released into the community; however, they are subject to very strict guidelines and conditions.

Bucks Department of Corrections Day Reporting Center

The Day Reporting Center (DRC) for the Bucks County Department of Corrections is located adjacent to the Women's Community Correctional Center, off of Almshouse Road, on the Department of Corrections complex. Supervision of approved Day Reporters is provided by the Community Corrections Officers, as assigned, with drug and alcohol treatment provided by members of a specially formed D&A team.

The purpose of the Day Reporting program is to provide the Courts with a concentrated, one-stop point of entry for Offenders sentenced to restrictive intermediate punishment under the Sentencing Guidelines Implementation Manual of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Offenders will be identified post conviction and will be either level 3 or 4, or DUI offenders where traditional sentences would be in excess of 1 year, per Pennsylvania Sentencing Guidelines. When identified, the Court will delay sentencing,

allowing time for the Department of Corrections to conduct the necessary assessments. The Day Reporting system offers programs to control and manage Offenders in the community by providing appropriate discipline and treatment.

Costs and Benefits of the Day Reporting program

Historically, no formal cost-benefit analysis has compared the costs of day reporting centers to the costs associated with incarceration.

In the County of Bucks, each Offender that participates in the day reporting program while remaining at their home residence under house arrest will be charged a \$10.00/day fee, which will be paid in full, prior to completion of the program.

One potential benefit of day reporting is that it frees up scarce prison, jail and supervision resources for use with Offenders who pose a risk to public safety. Additionally, a potential benefit of day reporting is the emphasis on both incapacitation and rehabilitation. The day reporting program provides an opportunity for Offenders to maintain their homes, families and employment.

How the program works?

The day reporting program provides a structured supervision program for the offender, which will enable him/her to progress forward towards achievement and accomplishment.

Eligibility: Offenders that are sentenced to 24 months intermediate punishment with the first 12 months being served on Restrictive Intermediate Punishment [house arrest]. Defendants incarcerated at the Bucks County Correctional Facility are eligible for the screening process prior to sentencing. The Offender must be willing to enter into the Day Reporting Program and abide by all rules and regulations.

Eligible offender's can not be convicted of a below listed offense. Additionally, they can not have been convicted of a below listed offense within the last 10 years.

- 18 Pa.C.S. § 2502 (relating to murder).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 2503 (relating to voluntary manslaughter).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 2702 (relating to aggravated assault).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 2703 (relating to assault by prisoner).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 2704 (relating to assault by life prisoner).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 2901 (relating to kidnapping).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3121 (relating to rape).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3126 (relating to indecent assault).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3301 (relating to arson and related offenses).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3502 (relating to burglary), when graded as a felony of the first degree.
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3701 (relating to robbery).

- 18 Pa.C.S. § 3923 (relating to theft by extortion).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 4302 (relating to incest).
- 18 Pa.C.S. § 5121 (relating to escape).

Process: During the 12 months he/she will participate in the Day Reporting Program. There are four phases of the Bucks County Day Reporting program which are strictly adhered to, with each phase projected to be three months in duration; however, participant behavior and progress in the program will determine the length of stay in each phase.

Phase I – the most intensive phase, wherein the Offender will attend six hours/day, six days/week [M-Sat] and will participate in various drug and alcohol groups, educational tutorials, vocational preparedness, criminal thinking/problem solving, and life skills.

Phase II – Consists of three days of treatment/week, with emphasis placed on reinforcing the skills and behaviors learned in Phase I and applying them to their personal goals. During Phase II, Offenders are permitted to obtain/maintain employment. Supervision, as in Phase I, is overseen by the Community Corrections Officers.

Phase III – Treatment is reduced to two times per week.

Phase IV – continued cognitive restructuring, D&A treatment and relapse work. Supervision is maintained by Community Corrections Officers.

Upon successful completion of the 12-month day reporting program, his/her case will be transferred to the Bucks County Adult Probation/Parole Department for supervision of the remainder of the sentence.

Rules and Regulations of the Day Reporting Program

The rules and regulations of the Bucks County Day Reporting Program are a combination of local and state parole conditions. In addition, the rules of the house arrest program are strictly enforced. A complete set of rules and regulations will be provided to all Offenders upon acceptance into the program.

As a brief review, the following regulations will be strictly enforced. No consumption of alcohol in any form, no ingestion of controlled substances and no form of weapon will be tolerated while on the day reporting program. The approved day reporting residence will be searched when Offender is placed on the program, and the Community Corrections Staff retains the right to search the residence at any time, during the duration of the program. Offenders are required to maintain a working Verizon land line at their residence, which may not have any special features (ie, call waiting, Caller ID, answering machine) on it. Offenders must have transportation to/from the DRC and the Men's Community Corrections Center.

For a complete set of rules and regulations, or to refer an offender for the program contact Jeffrey Contino, Community Corrections Manager, at 215-345-3928.