

Under the Behavioral Health Administration, the Forensic Navigator program aims to redirect people involved in the criminal court system from jails and inpatient treatment facilities to community-based treatment settings.

Program participants are assigned to a navigator when a court orders a competency evaluation. When participants are found not competent to stand trial and are unsuitable for outpatient competency restoration, the courts may grant conditional release, allowing them to receive services in the community.

Partners

The following partners are key to program success:

- Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA)
- Outpatient Competency Restoration Program providers (via contract with HCA)
 - Courts*
 - City and County jails*
- Community-based service providers*
- Law enforcement agencies*

*Subject to phased implementation

For more information

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Washington State
Health Care Authority



DSHS 22-1902 (Rev. 12/24)



Forensic Navigators



Forensic navigators work with participants to ensure they follow their conditions of release, attend outpatient competency restoration classes and take medications as prescribed.

Forensic navigators connect participants to additional supportive services in the community, such as housing, mental health and substance use treatment, supported employment services, and community-based case management services.

Who Receives Navigator Services

The Forensic Navigator program was created for when a court decides that a defendant is suitable for community-based treatment and support.

The court orders the defendant to receive a competency evaluation and assigns them to a forensic navigator.

By state law ([RCW 10.77.074](#)), our forensic navigators use a screening process to ensure that only those most likely to benefit from community-based treatment and support receive our forensic navigator services.



About the Trueblood settlement

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for people detained in city and county jails.

The Trueblood settlement agreement establishes a plan for providing services to people involved in the criminal court system and for providing necessary treatment to reduce the likelihood of re-involvement in the criminal court system.

The Trueblood settlement agreement includes a plan for phasing in programs and services:

- Pierce, Southwest and Spokane regions | July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021
- King region | July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023
- Thurston, Mason, & Salish Region | July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025

Find out more at the [Trueblood webpage](#).