



LAW SOCIETY
Newfoundland & Labrador

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FREE CLE WEBINAR

An Overview of the Specialized Criminal Courts

Date: Thursday, March 25th, 2021

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Seminar Overview:

Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador offers three Specialized Courts in St. John's for those that qualify. This 1.5 hour presentation will provide a brief overview of these three therapeutic court options.

The **Family Violence Intervention Court (FVIC)** is a specialized criminal court using an intervention-based approach to address the complex issues of intimate partner violence. This specialized court requires the offender to participate in intervention or programming regarding family violence. The goal of the Court is to prevent and reduce incidents of family violence by addressing the root causes of violence through teamwork with key community partners. Working together allows faster access to services for the victim and offender. The Court focuses on improving victim safety and offender responsibility.

The **Mental Health Court (MHC)** is based on the recognition that certain offenders who suffer from a mental disorder may commit offences as a consequence of their mental disorder or due to lifestyle issues related to their mental disorder. Health care professionals and corrections personnel provide medical support and community-based support to the individuals who are accepted into the Court. Provide effective treatment options instead of or in addition to criminal sanctions crafted to reflect the needs of the offender and the community. The court focuses on providing effective treatment options instead of or in addition to criminal sanctions crafted to reflect the needs of the offender and the community.

The Newfoundland and Labrador **Drug Treatment Court (DTC)**, piloted in St. John's, is a federally funded program of the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. By combining judicial supervision with intensive treatment, case management, frequent drug testing and

intervention, DTC provides a comprehensive and collaborative approach to addressing criminal behaviour motivated by drug addiction. This court is primarily for high risk/high need individuals, with a history of difficulty with prior supervision and treatment, who voluntarily agree to participate in DTC including treatment and drug testing. The DTC uses a holistic approach to provide participants with supports and services to facilitate change in their lives.

Seminar Presenters:

FVIC

Michelle Park – Specialty Court Liaison
Michelle Wilson – Legal Aid NL FVIC Counsel
Jacqueline MacMillan – FVIC Crown
Pat O'Reilly – Risk Assessment Officer
Meaghan Sampson – Bail Supervisor

MHC

Michelle Park – Specialty Court Liaison

DTC

Valerie Corcoran – DTC Coordinator
Kara Pinkson – DTC Addictions Specialist
Paul Thistle – DTC Crown

PLEASE NOTE: THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IS ONLINE ONLY. TO REGISTER FOR THIS SEMINAR, PLEASE CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINK:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EPxI843XTS-KyHcy--W1uw

CLE Credit: 1.5 hours